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WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 6, NO. 8 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | JANUARY 1996 • FREE

"Harm reduction offers hope, through political change, social change and democracy, in what has become an increasingly hopeless situation."
Lisa Moore, Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Education at San Francisco State University

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace

On Tuesday, December 19, around 200 supporters marched to the Olympia City Hall to defend the Olympia AIDS Prevention Projects' (OAPP) needle exchange.

The needle exchange project has recently come under attack by some city and county officials. Some officials have questioned the legality of a community-based nonprofit organization preventing the spread of AIDS among the injection drug-using community, by exchanging dirty syringes for new, sterile ones. (see cover story, 12/95 WIP) But concerned residents and organizers from the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) and OAPP have demonstrated that it is possible to influence local policy through an effective grassroots organizing campaign.

Ever since Ken Black of the city's Community Planning and Development Office began to spread misinformation about the OAPP needle exchange project at November meetings of the East End Business Association, supporters have mobilized to show that the project has widespread public support, and its work should not be compromised.

Their aim has been to pressure government officials into sanctioning the OAPP needle exchange project, and to allow the OAPP staff to continue their life-saving work without interference. In addition to sending hundreds of postcards to city and county officials and gathering over 1500 signatures on petitions, activists from OMJP, OAPP and other local groups organized a march and rally to defend the project.

The march was originally scheduled to take place on December 12, but organizers were forced to cancel the demonstration due to Windstorm '95. In spite of the delay caused by the storm, organizers put out the call that the march was rescheduled for the following Tuesday.

The march began at the Bread and Roses drop-in center, where OAPP co-founder Long-Hair David told supporters, "Here we have a chance to actually do something to be a part of the politics of HIV/AIDS, and to make a difference in this community."

David cited statistics that there are over 20 million HIV-positive people in the world now, a number which is expected to double by the year 2000. In the U.S., more than 311,000 people have died of AIDS-related illnesses.

According to Long-Hair David, the attack on the OAPP needle exchange project began as a part of a gentrification scheme for the East End of downtown. David emphasized the need for city officials to recognize the full diversity of our community, rather than excluding people based on their economic status.

"We are homeless people. We are the wealthy people that live up in those homes by the capitol, right down to the man who sleeps underneath the bridge. And I think we need to express that to our community. That's another one of our endeavors tonight."

Marchers then gathered around the Titanic, a brewery that has recently opened across the street from Bread and Roses. Speaker Pat Tassoni also echoed the theme of gentrification, and some business owners' active role in promoting a war against the poor in Olympia.

"Recently, the arrogance of businesses has led them to consider themselves public health experts. For the sake of businesses, and the profits of the few, how many more people will

(Continued page 7)

Organizers Declare First Victory In The Fight To Defend OAPP's Needle Exchange

photo by Rick Hoonan

In addition to sending hundreds of postcards to city and county officials and gathering over 1500 signatures on petitions, activists from OMJP, OAPP and other local groups organized a march and rally to defend the project.

Racism, O.J., and the Judiciary System

It Was Wonderfully Uncomfortable

Jerome Johnson

When you say that you don't see me as black, then that means that you don't see me. – Oprah Winfrey, October 1995

I'm going to write about racism this month. I was supposed to write about something else, *but...*

One of the ways that I, as a black person, work through racism is to write and speak and generally express my experience with it. This is a commonly used technique for many of us black people, and one of the most effective in fighting racism. Since October I've been unusually sensitive to racism, and couldn't write about it until now.

A year ago last June, people started asking me what I thought of the Simpson case. I said that because of Simpson's record and the power of the L.A. Prosecutor's office, I predicted a conviction. Right through to closing arguments I expected one, due to the evidence the jury was permitted to see. On my birthday, O.J. Simpson was acquitted.

And like much of black America, I smiled.

I smiled because a jury refused to convict someone based on circumstantial, compromised evidence -- much of it gathered by an enthusiastic racist rogue cop. And wasn't alone: outside the courthouse, hundreds of Angelenos of both genders and all races cheered as the verdict was read.

In the following days, as a firestorm of debate engulfed the country, I noticed a stark difference in the reactions of blacks and whites, men and women. Certain ideas kept recurring. Among them:

"The predominantly black jury acquitted one of their own just because he's black. Besides, black people aren't as smart as white people -- they couldn't understand the scientific DNA evidence."

Well, predominantly black juries lock up black defendants every day in this country. Every juror I've heard from said that the DNA presentations were clear, and at home, watching on TV, I understood them. For the jury, and for me the evidence didn't add up right. Hell, the whole world saw that the gloves didn't fit.

"O.J. killed Nicole because he beat her for years."

Yes, O.J. did beat Nicole, and he should have been locked up and given counseling. But that, in itself, doesn't mean he killed her. Some spouses abuse for decades but don't kill, while others kill without a history of abuse. But the racial dynamics of the case reinforced the stereotype of the black man brutalizing people.

Well, sorry to disrupt your comfort zone. We didn't get racism handled twenty years ago, it's still very much alive... How many are raped and lynched, by the very police who should uphold the laws?

"I'm as shocked about Fuhrman as you are, he's horrible, but the trials about Simpson. Can't we just look at the evidence?"

It's amazing when white people

(Continued backpage)

Grandma Still Wants a Life

Carol Simila-Dickinson

She always hated to bother people, so she rarely asked for needed assistance with the myriad of daily tasks. Besides, she didn't want to appear feeble since she knows she's not. She just wants to live out her life peacefully and happily.

But what is she really capable of? Well, she knows what she likes and what she doesn't. She likes living at home, having her routines, her familiar surroundings, objects and pets. They fill her life with meaning and context, and give her a deep-seated feeling of security and well-being. Whether she's having a good day or a bad one, her cackling chickens beckon, and her dog's eager bid to be petted first thing in the morning remind her that life goes on, that she's needed and wanted.

But a stroke and hospitalization interrupted that rhythm. She was plied from the cozy familiarity of the flannel sheets of her antique four-poster and hurried to the hospital in a wailing, high-tech ambulance. She squinted in dazed confusion at the electronic wonders that confronted her. She gave a start each time a new set of hands poked her with a needle or kneaded her organs. She grew weary from overwhelm, and dozed off in between. But, relentlessly the touching, the pokes and the pressures continued all night and throughout the next few days. She quit expecting to sleep, and began to interrupt her catnaps herself, just to see if someone once again was poised at her bedside, ready to test, sample or measure some once-forgotten bodily function.

As familiar faces began appearing at her side, she took comfort that she was not forgotten or left adrift in an endless tide of medical hardware and clinical practices. Yet, she sensed that if she didn't make progress she might not return to her familiar surroundings. But the commands to *move that, wiggle this, turn that way*, sometimes came when she was too fatigued to comply.

One dark night, after hours of sleepless isolation in her hospital room, a wave of urgency swept over her. *She must show them that she still is who she is. She must show them that she can do things for herself, just as she has for eighty plus years. She must show them that this is not the kind of place for a capable, independent person like her.*

With alarming difficulty, she raises her legs a little, then rests to assess the situation. This is harder than she'd thought. She pulls a little harder, then hoists her alienated extremities awkwardly over the bedrails. Frantic now, she pulls her body steadily forward until her feet touch the floor. With a decisive burst of energy, she thrusts her torso forward — only to find that her legs won't support her, and she collapses in a heap.

The nurses acknowledge her message: she wants to be up. They set her in a chair, tied down with a harness to prevent another fall. And they notify the doctor that she has made known her wish to begin mobility therapy.

The words wouldn't come, so it was through her behavior that this venerable veteran of home, family and farm management regained control of the direction of her life

The words wouldn't come, so it was through her behavior that this venerable veteran of home, family and farm management regained control of the direction of her life — control that, for a few days, hung ominously in limbo. In so doing, she soundly put to rest theories that her life had been reduced to the medical realities she faces. They are still *but a part* of who she is. ◆

may they not have died in vain

In memory of homeless men and women who have died in the Olympia area from hypothermia due to lack of adequate shelter available other then the Salvation Army:

1993: Marshall; **Jan:** Jack Gunnery **1995:** Sonny; **Oct:** Gary Bach; **Nov:** Michael Crow, Marie Hedden; **Dec:** Rosalee Borik, Tim Budd

- Emergency Habitat is working on getting the Cities of Tumwater, Olympia, and Lacey as well as the County to open an emergency shelter that will house the homeless on government property overnight on nights that reach down into the thirties. The proposition designates that the site will rotate between the jurisdictions.
- Mission of Hope is currently applying for a special zoning permit from the County in order to house many people in a basement shelter. As Mission of Hope coordinator and B&R staff, Sue Grant can be reached at 705-1125 (a.m.) or 754-4085 (p.m.).

Encourage the Cities and Counties to cooperate fully in getting people in from the cold.

1996 Works In Progress Historical Calendar

★★ JANUARY 1996 ★★
"We must encourage creative dissenters. We must demonstrate, teach, and preach, until the foundations of our nation are shaken."
Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat
★ America is a great nation but . . . ★

- **The back-pages of WIP that everyone liked! Now redone for 1996!**
- **Jammed packed with historical information:**
  May 12, 1958: Robert McNamara suggests Americans should eat cabbage and broccoli to withstand radiation fallout
- **Special attention to historical origins, sequences, and events**
- **Quotes that cut through the crap**
- **11 x 16 inches, ready for hanging**

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Send to: *Works In Progress*, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Mission Statement: This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Marie Smith
Sylvia Smith
Pat Tassoni
Dave Zink

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Correspondence/articles are always welcome. Articles on disk (text preferred). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

WIP Schedule

WIP article submission deadline is:

Friday, Jan. 19

On that day, there will be a meeting at SPEECH (218 Fourth Ave) at 6 pm. Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, Jan. 22 at 7pm
Olympia Timberland Library

Advertising Info

⇨ **Dave Campbell at 352-6132**

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LETTERS & BRIEFS

True Socialism Needed

Dear sir,

The Boeing strike is a good example of "what the capitalists give, the capitalists can take away." Also the attempt to cut Social Security benefits is proof of what the government gives, can be taken away.

The unions are failing because they have always supported the capitalism system and robbery of workers' true value. The unions keep labor peace and keep a supply of wage slaves to industry.

Under the present law the workers still have the constitutional right to abolish the present system of capitalists in a peaceful revolution through the voting process, taking control of the workplace and installing a Socialist government. When the profit motive is abolished, there will be no more unemployment, low wages, pollution, poisons in the air, food, and water, and war will be ended forever.

Find out about true Socialism (since 1891):

Socialist Labor Party
111 W. Evelyn Ave., Suite 209
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-6140

Yours truly,
Milton Poulos

Homeless

A man living life on the streets,
he gets thrown in jail by the police.
For what? asking for money,
is it a crime because he is hungry?

He cannot get a job,
he is being attacked by dogs.
He finds somewhere to sleep,
thinking about his life he weeps.

He asked me for some change,
and I think that he is strange.
Even though I got the money in my pocket,
I am able to talk my way out of it.

But is he really that strange,
just because he asked me for some change?
He is a human being,
how could I be so Mean?

Inside I want to help him so bad,
seeing people like him makes me sad.
I think that I am more and he's less,
why? just because he is homeless?

You people may see a dirty old bum,
but I see man who has freedom.

anonymous

A Letter from Bosnia

Linda Beekman has been traveling to Sarajevo to bring humanitarian aid to the war-torn country. This is a letter she sent from there, where she was on her trip to bring medical and dental supplies and to see her friends Renata and Haris who are trying to leave. This is a follow-up to the article in the October issue of WIP. Linda works with the Tampa Bay Peace Education Program 130 19th Ave. SE St. Petersburg, FL 33705.

1 November, Metkovic

Today is All Saints Day, a major holiday in the Catholic Church in Croatia, celebrated by putting flowers on graves of family and friends. For three days now, flowers are everywhere, hugh gerber daises and mums, all colors, at least 6 inches in diameter. Many people have planted their entire front yards in flowers to sell for income. Yesterday I got stuck in a traffic jam near the main cemetery—I was taking the bus from Split to Metkovic, normally two hours south of Split. It took us 45 minutes to go two miles because of the traffic in and out of the cemetery. The bus smelled like a florist shop with everyone carrying large bouquets of flowers tucked under their arms

Today I am travelling from Metkovic to Sarajevo via a convoy from ODA, Overseas Direct Assistance (British). There are ten large trucks and two armored landrovers. I am travelling in the eighth truck. Sitting so high up, I can see everything. We travel the main road now, about a four to five hour drive that takes us through the countryside and through several towns including Mostar. Trees are gold and yellow, some cows, sheep and goats roam the fields, an enjoyable view except for hundreds of burned houses. Some areas are deserted due to land mines—when we stop for a break, I hesitate to wander off the road for the same reason. Some are small mines about the size of a large cup that will blow your legs off, others about three times as large will stop a tank. I need to find a makeshift bathroom in the bushes but decide the risk is too great. The charred images of destroyed homes are burned into my memory. We often drive through four villages in a row where every home is burned out—only rubble left. What has happened to these people?

We travel through Croatian, Bosnian and Serbian check points — an impossible trip two months ago. As we enter Sarajevo and the last check point (UN French) we arrive at our destination, the main bakery. About 15 tons of flour have arrived in Sarajevo — bread is plentiful.

2 November, Sarajevo

This morning the dental supplies were delivered to the children's clinic. The amalgam was well received. This clinic serves all children in Sarajevo but does special outreach to children whose parents have been lost in the war. The dental supplies proved to be a heavy burden to travel with and I was happy and relieved to have delivered them. No small feat.

In my final weeks here I will be helping "Conflict Resolution Catalysts," a project of Gary Shapiro of Vermont. Five volunteers arrive next week and I may go to Zagreb to meet them and facilitate their journey to Sarajevo.

I miss everyone and look forward to coming home. Your support and donations have made a difference to many children in Bosnia. They are so grateful for any help they receive. As a friend I met in Tuzla said, "The children are innocent, they are not guilty for anything,"

Love & Peace
Linda Beekman

Soul Food for Activists

Between dealing with the shortest days of the year, heavy rains, mounting social inequality, and more Boys in Blue on every corner than convenience stores, it's heartening to notice when grassroots organizing efforts achieve the desired results!

Last month, U.S. political prisoner and labor activist **Mark Curtis** was granted parole, which became effective on December 7th. Curtis, who was nearly beaten to death following a frame-up in 1988 for rape and burglary, has spent the last seven years in prison in Ft. Madison, Iowa. At the time of this arrest, Curtis was involved in a labor struggle at the Montfort meatpacking plant in Des Moines, defending 17 Salvadoran and Mexican coworkers who had been seized during a raid by INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) officials. He had also been active in opposing an employer drive to slash wages, impose speed-ups, and increase dangerous working conditions.

This victory is directly attributable to massive nationwide informational campaigns, petition and letterwriting drives emanating from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, and, significantly, to the unflagging spirit of resistance of Mark Curtis throughout his ordeal.

Mark is slated to be released in the next few weeks, following the completion of transferring his parole from Iowa to Illinois.

Welcome Home Brother!

Leonard Peltier Assaulted and Transferred

The government has, once again, shown it's desire to suppress truth and justice, and to continue it's long cover-up of it's shameful deeds. Just two days before Leonard went to his parole hearing he was assaulted and provoked in an attempt to discredit him. Even though Leonard did not retaliate in any way, his was placed in segregation (the hole). Then on the day after his hearing he was taken by plane to a temporary transfer unit in Oklahoma City, OK. There he is being held in segregation and under complete lock-down. He has been told that he will be moved to a prison in Atlanta, GA, where he will remain in solitary while in that institution.

Atlanta is about as far away as they could send Leonard from his family, his defense committee and his lawyers. There is a good bit of anxiety among Leonard's supporters for this transfer could place Leonard into a very unsafe situation. One such transfer was a part of an assassination attempt. All supporters of Leonard are asked to call the Atlanta Prison at 404-622-6241 and tell them that they will be held responsible for anything and everything that happens to Leonard Peltier while in their custody. Also, please call the White House, 202-456-1111, and voice your concern and ask for immediate justice.

PAROLE HEARING UP-DATE

Leonard's parole hearing was held on Dec. 11th. Leonard's lawyers, Ramsey Clark and Carl Nadler presented testimony and documentation to directly rebut the government's claims. Also at the hearing was US assistant attorney Lynn Crooks, who said that "someone murdered those agents. Even if it wasn't him, (Leonard),--somebody had to do it". That statement once again shows that the government never had proof against Leonard and that their case was nothing but a pack of lies. FBI Special Agent Roger Wheeler was also there and the FBI wanted Leonard to show remorse. Leonard who is innocent then stated, "I have always stated in interviews that I felt sorry for the agents and the Indians that were killed ...Are we such animals that it doesn't matter that over 60 Indians died?" Now that the hearing is over it was stated that it will take as much as five weeks for a decision. Please write letters to: United States Parole Commission, 5550 Friendship Blvd, ste 420, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, fax--301-492-6694, in support of parole for Leonard.

Community Sustaining Fund Announces Fall 1995 Grant Recipients

• Lin Crowley — $350 to defray production cost for a video on the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women and Development, held last summer in Beijing.

• Thurston County Off-Campus School — $200 for a highway litter clean up and prevention program and $265 for a community strategy session on land use and social justice, bringing together the concerns of labor, environment, and community organizations.

• Bread and Roses — $400 as startup cost for an educational resource center at the Drop-In Center.

• Kitchen Garden Project — $375 to buy seeds for next year's expanded gardens.

• Stephen Cifka — $400 for photographic supplies for a documentary portrait project.

• Synergy International Arts Program — $200 for supplies for an elders/youth arts mentorship project.

The total awarded amount for Fall 1995 was $2,190. The Community Sustaining Fund began in 1987 and since that time has awarded $29,547 in their annual Spring and Fall Grant Cycles. The CSF provides start up cost for individuals and organizations working for social justice, environmental and community building activities, with an emphasis on projects that otherwise might go unfunded. CSF funds are donated by individuals and supporting businesses.

Michael MacSems

Gloria Martin

Author, Pioneer Feminist, Revolutionary • 1916-1995

Born in St. Louis and lifelong foe of racism, Martin wa a galvanizing force in U.S. feminism and a political bridge between the Old and New Left. The mother of eight children, she held many jobs; one of her achievements was to unionize anti-poverty workers. She helped win legal abortion in Washington state, mobilized welfare mothers, was an early advocate of lesbian and gay rights, and co-founded Radical Women, the country's first socialist feminist women's organization.

In her later years, she operated Shakespeare & Co. Booksellers in the Pike Place Market. An intrepid leader of the Freedom Socialist Party, Martin authored *Socialist Feminism: The First Decade, 1966-1976*, an account of that era's turbulent movements. ◆

Along the Color Line

Inequality and Imprisonment

Dr. Manning Marable

The primary response by the US government, elected officials and the corporate elite to the growing crisis of inequality has been the massive expansion of public and private security forces, and the incarceration of literally millions of black, Hispanic and poor people. Between 1980 and 1990, the number of police in the United States doubled. As of 1995, there were 554,000 officers employed by local and state police forces. Beyond this, an additional 1.5 million private security officers are currently employed to guard office buildings, stores, affluent neighborhoods and corporate headquarters all over the country. Private patrol cars now cruise entire communities of upper to middle class Americans, with their street closed off to outside traffic. Much of the new suburban housing being built today in "planned communities" is surrounded by walls and gates, wired for electronic surveillance, and guarded twenty-four hours a day by private security personnel.

Even more striking has been the massive expansion in recent years of the US prison system. In fifteen years, the US prison population tripled, from 500,000 in 1980 to 1,500,000 in 1995. In the state of California alone, between 1977 and 1992, the prison population soared from less than 20,000 to over 110,000. To appreciate this massive scale of imprisonment, one should consider the fact that the California state prison system, excluding the US as a whole, is the second largest in the world after China. As of 1992, out of every 100,000 residents of the US, 344 were in prison, and another 174 were in jail.

The racial oppression which defines US society as a whole is most dramatically apparent within the criminal justice system and the prisons. Today, about one-half or over 750,000 inmates in prisons and jails are African-Americans. Statistically, out of every 100,000 black male residents in 1992, 2,678 were prisoners. For black men between age thirty to thirty-four, 6,299 are imprisoned for every 100,000; for younger black men aged 24 to 29, the figure is 7,210 for every 100,000. About one quarter of all African-American males in their twenties are today either in prison or jail, on probation, parole or awaiting trial.

An entire generation of young black men have become the central targets of the criminal justice system, and no one within the white establishment seems to give a damn.

What does this mean in terms of the typical daily experience of an average black male in the US regarding the criminal justice system? Author Adam Walinsky cites a recent study on African-American men aged eighteen to thirty-four in Washington, DC: "On any given day in 1991, 15 percent of the men were in prison, 21 percent were on probation or parole, and 6 percent were being sought by the police or were on bond awaiting trial. Thus, the total involved with the criminal justice system was 42 percent. The study estimated that 70 percent of black men in the District of Columbia would be arrested before the age of thirty-five, and that 85 percent would be arrested at some point in their lives." Washington, DC's racist pattern of arrest is not unusual: in nearby Baltimore in 1991, on any given day, 56 percent of the city's African-American males were in jail or prison, on probation or parole, awaiting trial or sentencing, or had warrants issued for their arrest.

These statistical profiles of racial oppression should *not* obscure the class dimensions of who is arrested and imprisoned in the US. In 1989 more than 14 million Americans were arrested. About two percent of the total male labor force in the US today is in prison. According to a 1991 survey of the US Department of Justice, about one-third of all prisoners were unemployed at the time of their arrests. Only fifty-five percent held full-time jobs. About two-thirds of all prisoners have less than a high school level education, and few marketable skills which permit them to be competitive in the labor market.

The prisons of the US are vast warehouses for the poor and unemployed, for low wage workers and the poorly educated, and most especially, for Latino and African-American males. White collar criminals, those who embezzle hundreds of millions of dollars, are rarely given prison sentences. The wealthy and powerful almost never go to prison for the crimes they commit. But for the most oppressed, prison is frequently an *improvement* in one's life circumstances: free health care, three meals a day, shelter and some modest training programs. Today, there are hundreds of thousands more black men who are in prison or within the criminal justice system than are enrolled in colleges or universities. A young black man has statistically a greater likelihood of being jailed or arrested than obtaining a job which adequately supports himself, his partner and/or his family.

It is this draconian reality which gives Louis Farrakhan such legitimacy and authority among millions of African-Americans today. Many blacks are convinced that a political and economic conspiracy exists which blocks black advancement within the social order. Most politicians have repudiated affirmative action and the enforcement of civil rights. An entire generation of young black men have become the central targets of the criminal justice system, and no one within the white establishment seems to give a damn.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City. ◆

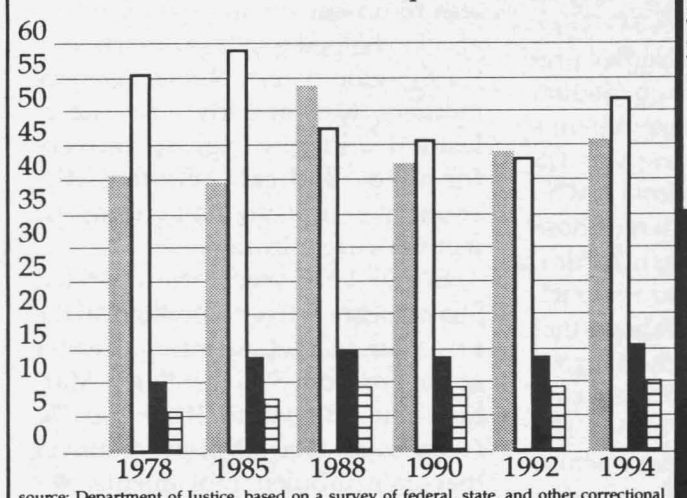
Total U.S. Imprisonment

	Federal	State
1970	20,038	176,391
1975	24,131	216,462
1980	24,363	305,458
1985	32,695	447,873
1990	65,526	708,393
1992	80,259	802,241
1994*	95,034	958,704

*In 1994, there was an additional 490,442 incarcerated in local jails nationwide source: Department of Justice

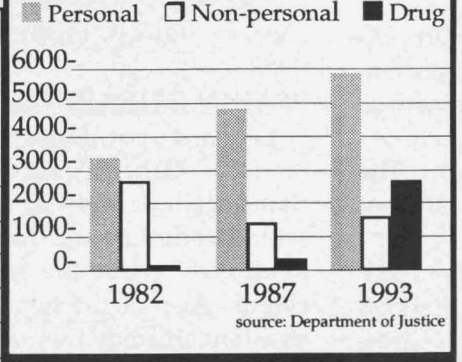
Percent of first-time, nonviolent drug offenders in federal prisons in 1993: 21.2
Percent of state prisons operating over capacity: 75
Percent of state prisons in California operating over capacity: 91

Racial and Gender Breakdown Incarcerated Nationwide (as %)



source: Department of Justice, based on a survey of federal, state, and other correctional institutions, including those that hold persons for less than 48 hours.

Inmates in Washington Correctional by Offense



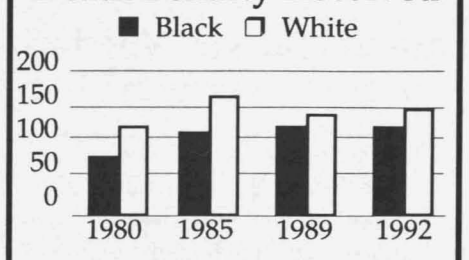
source: Department of Justice

Federally, 60% of inmates are there for drug offenses compared with 25% in 1980.

Race and the War on Drugs

Blacks are: 13% of the drug abusers
35% drug arrests for possession
55% of convictions
74% drug-related prison sentences

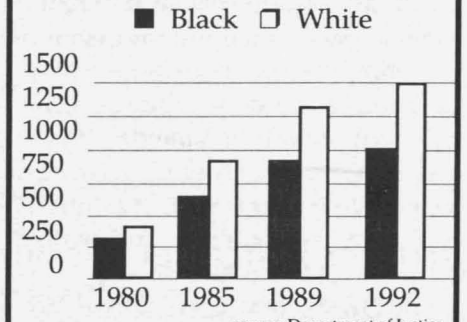
Death Penalty Received



source: Department of Justice

Number of offenses that now qualify for the federal death penalty: 58
Number of states where death penalty can be administered by a firing squad: 2

Prisoners Under Sentence of Death



source: Department of Justice

Racial Bias in Death Penalty

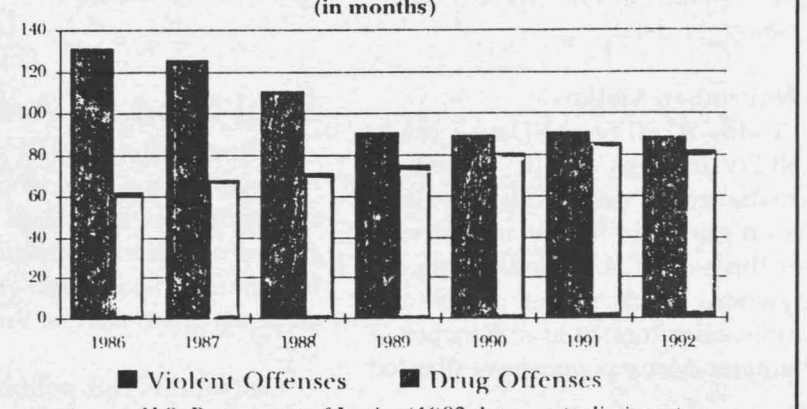
"The nation, where, as of December 1994, blacks constituted some 40% of men on death row, or across Pennsylvania, where, as of December 1994, 111 of 184 men on death row —over 60%— are black...[where] blacks constitute just over 9% of Pennsylvania's population and just under 11% of America's."

– Pennsylvania Death Row Inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal from his book *Live From Death Row*.

More Facts

Percent of those incarcerated are illiterate: 75
Percent of incarcerated juveniles with reading problems: 86
Percent of those who receive literacy help while in jail do not return to jail after their release: 75
Annual budget for literacy projects: Not figured by DOJ
Annual cost to keep a federal inmate: $14,456; state: $15,604
Annual cost to keep someone in college including tuition, room and board, books and supplies: TESC: $7,500; St. Martin's: $16,950

Average Federal Sentences for Violent and Drug Offenses (in months)



Source: U.S. Department of Justice (1992 data are preliminary).

bell hooks on the Million Man March and the Mainstream Feminist Movement

Greg Bye

Unlike several of her colleagues on the left, including Cornel West, and Michael Albert, bell hooks finds little in the Million Man March to be enthusiastic about. In fact, she fears that the march may signal "the birth of fascism" in the United States. Speaking to a full house at the Reed College Commons Building, Portland, OR on November 18th, hooks stated that the march received so much mainstream media attention because its leaders share important values with the fundamentalist Christian right. Among these are patriarch, capitalism, nationalism, homophobia, and xenophobia.

The march permeated, said hooks, with a sense of "puritanical moralism." For instance, blacks were vilified for depending on welfare. And this black feminist critical thinker thought that the march's main message to the black community was: the only war for blacks to collectively rise in America is through patriarchal leadership (leaders like Louis Farrakhan) and black national capitalism.

In his speech at the Million Man March, Louis Farrakhan asked people to "separate the messenger from the message." For her part, hooks told the Reed audience that she found this supports patriarchy, capitalism, black nationalism, xenophobia and homophobia. According to hooks, xenophobia and homophobia are implicit in nationalism. hooks posited the values Farrakhan supports were major themes of the march, and they overlap with Christian right ideals.

hooks compared Farrakhan as a political leader with Malcolm X. While Farrakhan, she explained, is shunned by non-elite whites, mainly because of his xenophobia, Malcolm X had the ability to get many white folks to support anti-racism struggles.

hooks also found little to be desired in the mainstream feminist movement. Calling it "white power feminism," in her talk, she argued that its major focus is helping individual, mostly white women to gain greater access to economic resources. And, unfortunately, this liberal tendency has largely pushed revolutionary goals from the mainstream feminist agenda. One tragic result, she pointed out, is that there is no effective opposition to an issue that should be in the forefront of the feminist struggle: the federal government's bipartisan attack on welfare. Welfare, hooks mentioned, is necessary to protect millions of women and children from starvation, due to the United States economy's structural inability to provide enough jobs that can support families.

To challenge the interlocking systems of power in the "white supremacist, patriarchal capitalist" United States, hooks recommended that progressive white people join with people of color and form a movement for revolutionary change. She hoped that a focus of the movement will be to challenge "the ethic of competition." For competition breeds racism (and other sorts of havoc). ◆

Welfare, hooks mentioned, is necessary to protect millions of women and children from starvation, due to the United States economy's structural inability to provide enough jobs that can support families.

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$3, 100% of door proceeds benefit the Olympia AIDS Prevention Project
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Congressional Lying Rides Havoc Over Public Forests

photo by Hali Panneton

During this direct action for the forests, protesters stopped logging at the Caraco Cat timber sale on December 1st by offering loggers coffee and sweetrolls.

Brett Clubbe

On November 30th the intentions of the Salvage Rider in Western Washington became painfully obvious; Old Growth forests w once again being cut in the Olympic National Forest.

The next morning, forest activists blocked the access road to the Caraco Cat timber sale in the Dungeness River Drainage. This is the first of two sales in the Quilcene District released as part of the so-called "salvage" rider signed by President Clinton in July. These two sales, Caraco Cat and Rocky in the Dosewallips drainage, are all in areas protected as Late Successional Reserves by the President's Forest Plan of 1994 (Option 9). Along with nine other sales, they could be released by a federal judge from Oregon. Thus the salvage rider has negated even the meager protections of Option 9. If you thought the Timber Wars were over with Option 9, our beloved Congress has once again declared war on our natural heritage and it is up to all of us to join the fight to preserve what is left.

There is currently a Bill in the House to repeal the salvage rider, thus restoring the environmental laws more reasonable Legislators enacted in years past. This Bill -- The Restoration of Natural Resource Laws on the Public Lands Act of 1995 -- H.R. 2745, has at last count 73 co-sponsors. What is needed now is many calls and letters to local legislators encouraging them to sign onto the rider repeal legislation. They must know that only complete repeal of the rider will be satisfactory to their constituents.

Patty Murray 202-224-2621
Linda Smith 923-9393

Also keep badgering Wafflin' Willie Clinton about this,too. phone 202-456-1111 fax 202-456-2883 president@whitehouse.gov

Obviously there is no point in politely lobbying Slade Gorton as he is the timber corporation's lackey who engineered this "Salvage" scam in the first place, and he is up to the same dirty tricks again. He has tacked language onto the Interior Appropriations Bill -- currently being vetoed by Clinton -- which would place a moratorium on implementing regulations on log exports and modifying Federal Lands sourcing areas in Western States. This would allow corporations to export trees from private land while running local mills on public trees made plentiful by the salvage rider.

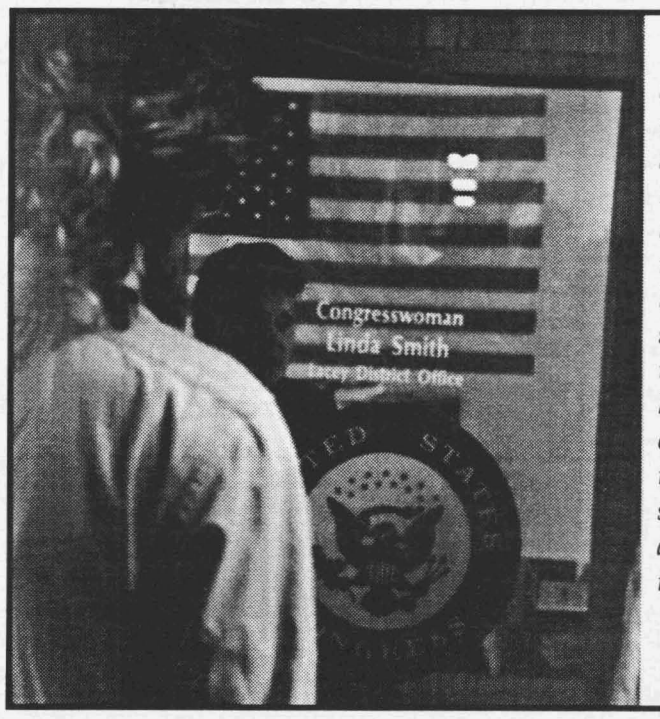
Slade has even come out and admitted that he deceived members of Congress when he pushed the salvage rider as necessary to rectify a supposed "Forest Health Emergency" on public forests of the west. Mr Gorton was recently heard to say, "The salvage rider is about one thing and one thing only, and that is jobs." By 'jobs' he means profits for his corporate backers. Slade received over $58,000 in campaign contributions in 1993-94 from the Forest Products industry, according to the Center for Responsive politics.

The corporate-owned Congress is riding all over our environment and our Constitutional Rights. If 25 years of environmental law and public participation rights can be overturned by one sleazy rider tacked onto a spending bill, how simple will it be for them to wipe out 30 years of Civil Rights legislation or 75 years of Labor laws?

The time is right now to Act for the Earth, to reinstate and strengthen our environmental protections and make sure that this "salvage" scam blows up in the faces of Clinton, Gorton, Norm Dicks and all the other greedy bastards selling off our public lands.

To help out with the ongoing Direct Action campaign on the Olympic Peninsula call or write the local groups that are organizing around this issue. Non-violent Civil Disobedience training will be offered to everybody who is interested in using this traditional tactic to up-the-ante and protect the forests.

- Olympic Activist Hotline- 360-352-6521
- Cheetwoot Wilderness Alliance
P.O. Box 10147
Oly Wa., 98502
- Cascadia Earth First!
P.O. Box 10024
Oly Wa., 98502



A week after the direct action pictured above, when forty Earth First! activists showed up at Linda Smith's office to discuss the 'Salvage' rider, they were **greeted** *by one very nervous assistant who refused to unlock the door until police backup arrived (6 cars!). She later admitted only one EF! representative (pictured above); he was flanked by three cops.*

photo by Hali Panneton

International Environmentalist Vandana Shiva Coming to Seattle

Beth Burrows

One of the great international voices for the environment -- as anyone who went to the Earth Summit at Rio or the Women's Conference at Beijing can tell you -- will be speak in Seattle January 16, at Kane Hall, on the University of Washington campus, starting at 7:30 p.m. Vandana Shiva, recipient of the Right Livelihood Award (termed by some the alternative or the environmental Nobel Prize) and renowned physicist, philosopher, feminist, ecologist, Director of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Natural Resource Policy in Dehra Dun, India, and author of numerous articles and books, including the much-acclaimed *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development* and *The Violence of the Green Revolution, Monocultures of the Mind, Ecofeminism,* - to mention a few of her books - will be talking on "Biodiversity and Biopiracy".

Active in citizen's movements in India against environmental destruction, including the Chipko Movement, Vandana Shiva is the Science and Environment Advisor of the Third World Network and the environment editor of *Third World Resurgence*, She is a consultant to FAO in India, a member of the National Environmental Council of India, and the director of Navdanya, a seed conservation project. The co-chair of WEDO (Women, Environment and Development Organization), Vandana has served on numerous international advisory bodies, including UNEP's Panel IV on biosafety. She also sits on the advisory boards and the boards of directors of many US organizations, including the Earth Island Institute. To quote from the cover of *Monocultures of the Mind*, "Vandana Shiva has established herself as a leading independent thinker and voice for the South in that critically important nexus where questions of development strategy, the environment, and the position of women in society coincide...In lucid and accessible fashion, she examines the current threat to the planet's biodiversity and the environmental and human consequences of its erosion and replacement by monoculture production. She shows how the new Biodiversity Convention has been gravely undermined by a mixture of diplomatic dilution during the process of negotiation and Northern hi-tech interests making money out of the new technologies. She explains what these technologies involve and gives examples of their impact in practice. She questions their claims to improving natural species for the good of all and highlights the ethical and environmental problems posed."

A riveting, thought-provoking speaker, with a huge following worldwide, Vandana Shiva is recognized as "a big talent, a big name, and a big doer of big deeds. . . not to be missed". Her talk in Seattle is co-sponsored by the Edmonds Institute, Greenpeace, and Radio Stations KUOW and KCMU. Typical of Vandana's commitment to the grassroots, her talk in Seattle is a benefit for a small non-profit that works on biodiversity and biosafety issues, the Edmonds Institute. ◆

Vandana Shiva, renowned physicist, philosopher, feminist, ecologist, activist, and Director of the Research Foundation for Science Technology, and Natural Resource Policy in Dehra Dun, India, speaks in Seattle on "Biodiversity and Biopiracy." Recipient of the Right Livelihood Award, author of the highly acclaimed *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development, The Violence of the Green Revolution, Monocultures of the Mind*, and *Ecofeminism*, she is a leader in citizens' movements in India against environmental destruction.

cosponsored by the Edmonds Institute, GreenPeace, and radio stations and KUOW and KCMU.

Tuesday, January 16 • 7:30 pm • Kane Hall (U of W)

Tickets ($8.25) available through TicketMaster or at the door.

CONSUMER RIGHTS

Your Rights As a Tenant

All tenants have a basic right to a livable dwelling. The Washington Residential Landlord-Tenant Act requires that every landlord:

• Maintain the premises to comply with health and safety codes.

• Make repairs and keep the premises in good condition.

• Keep any common areas reasonably clean, sanitary, and safe from defects.

• Keep the premises reasonably clear of insects, rodents and other pests.

• Provide adequate locks and keys.

• Maintain all electrical, plumbing, heating and other facilities and appliances in good working order.

• Maintain the premises in reasonably weather-tight condition.

• Provide garbage cans.

• Provide adequate heat, water and electricity.

• Provide the tenant with the name and address of the landlord in writing.

• The right to a livable swelling includes the right to have continuous utility service. Utilities may only be turned off by the landlord for a reasonable time to make repairs. If the utilities are shut off for other reasons or are kept off for an unreasonable time, you may sue in small-claims court. Your landlord must make repairs involving water, heat, electricity or conditions hazardous to life within 24 hours or receiving written notice of the problem. Most other problems must be corrected within 10 days of written notice of the repair problem.

• The landlord cannot refuse an apartment or otherwise discriminate against you on account of your race, sex, religion, or creed.

• The landlord must give you notice before entering your apartment, except in an emergency.

• The landlord may not retaliate against you for exercising basic rights, such as complaining to a government agency. Your landlord may not use self-help eviction (throwing or locking you out.) In order to evict you, the landlord must first give you written notice explaining why he or she wants you out. If you don't move out, the landlord must then file a court action to order you out. This is called an "unlawful detainer" action.

If you sign a written lease or rental agreement, be sure it states clearly everything you have agreed to. Read and understand this document before you sign it. Insist that the landlord provide you with a copy of the lease. You and the landlord can always agree to cross out or add words. If you do, make sure both of you initial the changes.

For complaints and/or inquiries about housing codes, call the local city or county zoning or building departments.

(First Victory for OAPP, continued)

become homeless? How many more will die? For the sake of a'healthy economy,' how many people will contract AIDS?"

Bearing torches, banners and signs declaring "OAPP SAVES LIVES" and "FIGHT TO LIVE, FIGHT TO LOVE, FIGHT AIDS," marchers displayed their militant, uncompromising support for the needle exchange project as they marched up Fourth Avenue and down Plum Street to City Hall.

Favorite chants during the march were "ACTUP! FIGHT BACK! FIGHT AIDS!", "STOP THE WAR ON THE POOR" and "THE PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED."

Arriving at City Hall in plenty of time for the City Council meeting, supporters crowded into the council chambers. Rather than silently waiting for the meeting to begin, Long-Hair David grabbed the stage and led supporters in a final round of "THE PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED," as city council members looked on.

Testimony in support of OAPP began with a resolution drafted for the city council by OMJP. The resolution, which was presented by Lara Shepard-Blue, would express the city's support for OAPP and recommend that the Thurston County health department give its full support to the OAPP needle exchange program.

Shepard-Blue recognized that council member Mark Foutch had drafted a letter that incorporated many of the same ideas as OMJP's resolution, but that OMJP would like to amend some parts of the letter before it was sent to the county.

In closing, Shepard-Blue chided the city council for its history of actions that "harass and punish poor people and homeless people in our community." She emphasized that "we're trying to present something positive that the city council can do, and we're glad that the council seems receptive to this idea. At the same time, we want to see that kind of positive action on behalf of some of Olympia's most marginalized people continue. And we want to be able to come back here in a year and thank you for the work you've done on behalf of Olympia's poor and homeless people."

In total, eight people offered testimony in support of OAPP, during the public comment period of the council meeting. Various speakers gave strong testimony in support of OAPP's effectiveness, including its staff's ability to gain the trust of the injection drug-using community.

Long-Hair David reminded the audience that, "The AIDS crisis is not over yet. And one of the problems with the AIDS crisis today is that everybody wants to make AIDS prevention perfect. It's never going to be perfect. It's never going to meet all of city hall's needs, all the members of the community's needs, and all the different people who feel that they need to have their needs met, when the people most at risk aren't getting their needs met at all. They want to clip AIDS prevention down like some sort of cute little poodle dog, and put ribbons in its hair. And that's where I come in. Because I'm really not no cute little poodle dog. I work with people, and the problems that I deal with-- drug addiction-- there's nothing cute about it. Not a darn thing cute about it."

David emphasized some of the positive effects of recent community organizing to support OAPP, including an increase in awareness of issues surrounding HIV / AIDS, networking between different organizations, and an overall increase in visible support for the project.

David referred to scientific reports which have confirmed the effectiveness of needle exchange programs, and ended with this hopeful note: "We will crack the juggernaut on the federal government spending in regards to needle exchange-- it will be coming soon."

Patricia Imani testified that "Laws and policies need to be written so that the needs of the people are met. If people are going to die...then the policy needs to be changed."

Craig Hymson gave testimony indicting the City of Olympia for its role in spreading misinformation about the OAPP needle exchange:

"A city official-- in this case, it's Ken Black, but the name isn't as important as the fact that it was a city official--has spread misinformation which has led to fear and hatred about OAPP...I was in the East End business association meeting where Mr. Black made his comments...Mr. Black said that the police were closing OAPP down, and it's already a 'done issue.' Police Chief Wurner told me that wasn't true. Mr. Black... said that Pat Libbey, head of the Thurston County Health Department, said that the OAPP needle exchange was a biohazard...I called Mr. Libbey and he said that if Mr. Black did say these things, then he was outraged that Mr. Black would use his name to spread this kind of misinformation...What I'm saying is that a city official has been at the head of [spreading] this misinformation, which in this business leads to death."

According to Hymson, he has access to a tape with Ken Black's statements.

Hali Panneton presented the city council with 1500 petition signatures in support of OAPP, and told council members that "OAPP is not just David here, it's all of us. And if we feel this service needs to happen, it's going to happen, whether you guys sanction it or not... We're not going away."

Pete Bohmer testified that, "I think the turnout here shows the kind of care the community has about continuing this program." Bohmer made several suggested amendments to Mark Foutch's draftletter supporting OAPP. Among other changes, Bohmer suggested that Foutch include a more positive statement about the effectiveness of OAPP's needle exchange program. He also asked Foutch to omit a paragraph which mentions alleged negative "spinoffs" of offering AIDS prevention services in downtown Olympia.

At the close of the public comment period, the Olympia City Council unanimously approved the letter written by Mark Foutch, including any changes he wished to make. A few days later, the letter was signed by Mayor Bob Jaco bs and sent to the Thurston County Commissioners.

While organizers recognize the city's letter as a significant victory for OAPP and its many supporters, the fight is not over yet. According to a Washington State Supreme Court decision, needle exchange programs operate under the auspices of county health departments. To make sure that the OAPP needle exchange program is allowed to continue its work without unnecessary restrictions or legal hassles, the county needs to acknowledge that OAPP operates under its auspices.

While the city's letter should help toward that end, there is a need for individuals and groups to make phone calls and write letters of support.

These should be directed to:

Diana Yu, Health Officer
529 West 4th
Olympia, WA 98501
786-5581

Thurston County Commissioners
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502
District 1 357-2470
District 2 786-5747
District 3 357-2473

◆

Needle Exchange Supporter Speaks

Joseph MacRae (aka Redtail Hawk)

December 1995 has been a very rewarding month for me. It has brought me closer to my people. Our people, the brothers and sisters of the Rainbow World. All tribes, all colors. Often I find myself being alienated from certain people and certain groups. Often I use the excuse that it's because of past experiences. Long Hair David has helped me to see past one of those times of difficulty when he asked me to do a smudging and blessing for the living memorial in remembrance of our brother who had joined the other side camp. I was honored.

I felt honor again - last Tuesday night when I joined the march from Bread and Roses to city hall in support of OAPP, Bread and Roses and my brothers and sisters who support, need or use these programs. In sharing with them, listening to their comments and their complaints I now better understand the needs of our community. I believe that many seeds were planted that night. It made me feel good about our community. It made me feel good to see so many people, from all walks of life, showing their support. Family people, homeless people, straight people, gay people, people of color, all marching side by side to make a change for the better; this is what it should be, this is what it will take.

"UNITED TOGETHER, WE'LL NEVER BE DEFEATED"

Open Dialogue Between City Councilmember and *Works In Progress*

No Attack On The Poor Says Foutch

Mark Foutch, Olympia City Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem

Dear WIP:

Your last two front-page articles address some very important issues regarding Olympia's downtown. While I understand how some folks could feel threatened by the process the City Council has started to improve the East End of downtown, I don't think it's valid to accuse us of some sort of conspiracy against the poor. And, if we all work together, we can achieve some valuable objectives.

Here's what's been going on as I see it:

At our annual goal-setting meeting last February, the Council decided to look at ways to bring some more life to that end of town. We directed staff to set up a meeting with business owners, property owners, and tenants. It was *my* suggestion that we meet at the site of the new Titanic brewpub. I wanted the meeting to be away from City Hall, on the downtowners' "turf," and the unfinished Titanic was both a new business and a large enough space to meet in. That was the sum total of my motives in selecting the meeting spot. No conspiracy.

At that first meeting, and at some of the meetings that followed, a few business owners made comments about Bread and Roses. Those were personal opinions. They did not reflect the policies of the City Council, City staff, or the group as a whole. Again, I can understand that Bread and Roses' supporters would feel threatened by such comments, but I considered them typical "venting" and was otherwise glad to see the group start to organize toward some positive goals.

Earlier in the year, we assigned Councilmembers Jeanette Hawkins and Pat Cole to meet with Bread and Roses to address longstanding concerns expressed by that operations' neighbors. While sometimes difficult, those discussions led to positive efforts by Bread and Roses to be better neighbors. Again, the Council was not stampeded into taking rash or punitive actions but pursued a positive goal.

As part of our overall downtown effort, the Council's General Government Committee met with the Downtown Walking Patrol from the Olympia Police Department. When asked for suggestions, OPD made some. The Council adopted some, did not adopt some others, and others await more information before a decision is made. Right now there is *no* anti-car camping ordinance, *no* anti-sidewalk sitting ordinance, and *no* anti-panhandling ordinance. (We have always had an ordinance against blocking the sidewalk, and a year or so back we adopted an ordinance prohibiting *aggressive* panhandling.)

Regarding David Fawver's needle exchange program, I think there should be room for such a community volunteer initiative. But the law seems pretty clear, so I hope David and Thurston County can come up with a modus operandi. On a related topic, the County Commissioners have heard, and agree with, the message that we need to re-establish a detox center somewhere closer than Tacoma(!) We need to check the County's progress in the coming year.

Back to downtown. I think Bread and Roses performs an important service and has a legal right to do so in its current space. The community has made a significant investment in that space, and anyone suggesting that Bread and Roses move elsewhere ought to consider how to make good on that investment. I think B&R sorely needs more staff and should continue to work on being good neighbors.

I also think it's possible to upgrade the appearance of the East End of downtown and improve economic activity while still allowing social services to take place there. But this "win-win" goal won't be achieved if the more vocal people on both sides continue to panic and engage in name-calling and questioning each others' motivations. I would ask all concerned *not* to assume, just because something is said in a meeting, that it is the opinion or conclusion of everyone there.

If we keep cool, speak civilly to each other, and try harder to work together, we'll make a lot more progress. ◆

But Do The Poor Have Equal Standing?

Pat Tassoni, Worker In Progress

Dear Mark Foutch:

Your letter to WIP demands a response, if not to successfully clear up some misconceptions, then at least to keep this dialogue going. In the very least, this response should familiarize you with the Works In Progress Mission Statement: *This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and* ***providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices.*** *Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.* (bold added for emphasis).

Although you mention in the second sentence of your letter that you "understand how some folks could feel threatened by the process the City Council has started to improve the East End of downtown," you do not address or even enumerate such issues in your letter. Rather you dismiss them, which does not create the air of trust and working togetherness that you say should exist to make progress on important issues. It is my hope that this letter will help you truly understand why some folks are threatened by both the process and the reality of the City.

I'd like to start out by addressing your use of the word 'conspiracy'. You use it in the context of WIP's recent front-page articles apparently accusing the Olympia City Council of "some sort of conspiracy against the poor." The word conspiracy itself connotes control by a few — puppet-masters, if you will. It also involves active scapegoating. Although I do see a worrisome amount of scapegoating going on by both businesses and the City Council, I do not think any of the City Councilmembers or downtown businesses have controlling power. But I do believe that the Council and businesses have a shared interest and perspective. When the two get together to work towards so-called positive goals, certain needs and perspectives are left out. It is to those needs and perspectives that the WIP articles were speaking.

First, you take responsibility for selecting the Titanic as the first meeting place. Subsequent meetings have been in business spaces like banks, etc. If our community is to be working toward the common good, would it not have been (as it still is) appropriate to have selected Bread & Roses as the next meeting site. As an established place, it meets your requirements as being "away from City Hall, on the downtowners' turf, and is a large enough space to meet in." If your reply or initial reaction is that then some or all downtown businesses wouldn't come, then you can begin to understand how others could feel threatened by the process and reality of improving the East End — the process is heavily biased towards and catered to the interests of a certain constituency.

Incidentally, as I understand it, neither B&R nor all east end businesses were invited. This contributes to the impression that only a select group is desired. Furthermore, when B&R supporters voiced their concerns at a meeting, they were attacked and dismissed for doing so. As Jasmine VanPelt wrote in the Bread & Roses Newsletter about an accuser,

"He felt that if was unfair for B&R supporters to be given an equal voice in setting priorities for the neighborhood, since they, not being business owners there, did not have the same stake in the outcome of the meeting and in the eventual fate of the neighborhood."

Without strong facilitation to neutralize such "typical 'venting'", comments can easily be taken as "the opinion or conclusion of everyone there", which is another one of your concerns. Such confusion is further created when the facilitator, Community Planner, Ken Black (whom you conspicously refuse to name in your letter) is making proposals about moving B&R as well as false statements by speaking on behalf of the Thurston County Health Department and the Olympia Police Chief with regard to OAPP. When City Officials make statements in public as city officials, it is logical to assume they are representing the city. When/if I sign this letter or make statements on behalf of Works In Progress, it is as a representative of WIP. But perhaps WIP is more professional than the City of Olympia.

Second, to be inclusive in a process working towards a solution by breaking down the "us versus them" men-

(Continued next page)

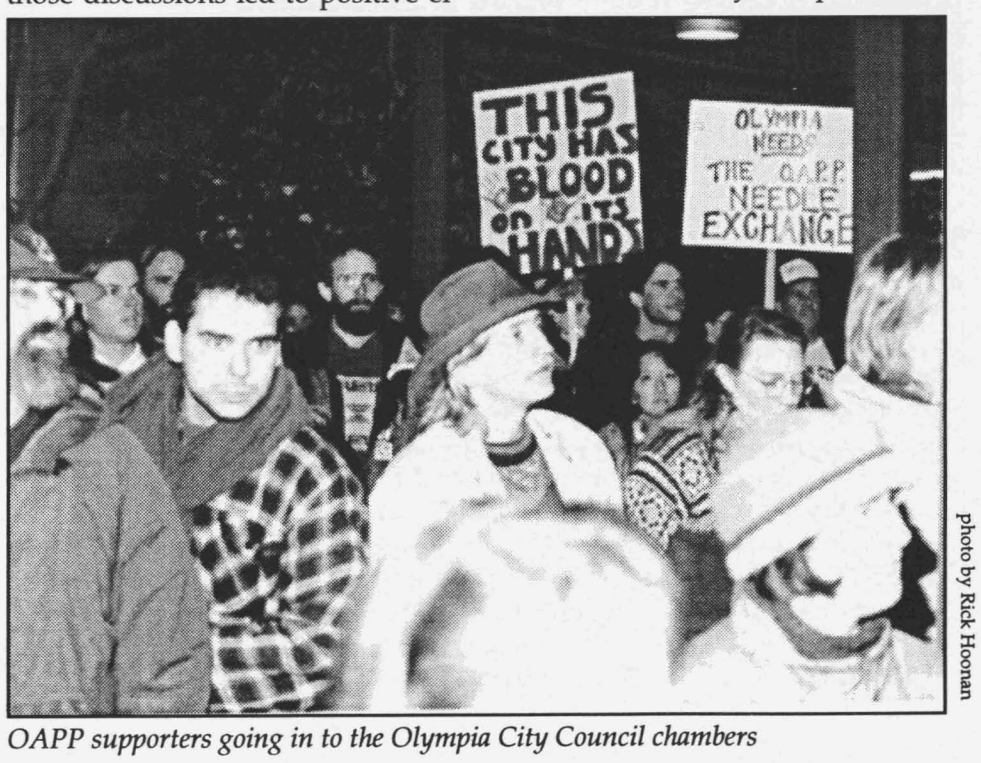


photo by Rick Hoonan

OAPP supporters going in to the Olympia City Council chambers

(Equal Standing? continued)

tality, assigned Councilmembers Hawkins and Cole need to meet with area businesses to address concerns surrounding their neighborliness, in addition to meeting with B&R to make them better neighbors. It is not proper for the City to paint B&R as the only bad neighbor in town, to make it the hindrance to community success. On the contrary, B&R serves as the indication of how bad things are everywhere. Covering up the band-aid does not heal the wound. As VanPelt wrote about B&R supporters:

"They wanted to add another voice to the debate about what's wrong with the east part of downtown and how to fix it. One of the suggestions that came from this group was that the downtown community work together to address some of the root causes of homelessness and social decay — growing inequity between the rich and the poor, the lack of affordable housing, the increasing scarcity of blue-collar jobs that can support a family above the poverty line."

Until the City honestly addresses the complete picture, the "us versus them" attitude will continue, often at the expense of the poor and disenfranchised. As part of the City's "overall downtown effort", the OPD was asked for suggestions. In your letter, you neither list the suggestions that were adopted nor the ones that weren't, but only list those that "await more information before a decision is made." (Does the blocking of sidewalks pertain to businesses' sandwich boards?) My point is that steps are being taken in a particular direction without inclusion from those who are directly affected. Besides the OPD, were the homeless, panhandlers, sitters, youth, and car-campers consulted for suggestions? They have had to react to the ordinances and threats of ordinances rather than being involved in them. My question is whom does this benefit? In whose interests is the City working?

I agree with your last sentence: "If we keep cool, speak civilly to each other, and try harder to work together, we'll make a lot more progress." I just don't share your apparent view that the Olympia City Council and downtown businesses are trying to address revitalization wholistically by working with B&R, youth, the homeless, etc.

Finally, Long Hair David's needle exchange program needs to continue. The law is not all that clear as you seem to think. The City needs to recognize the value the OAPP program has in protecting the public's health. He is established and successful within the community which is most at risk. This is the perfect opportunity for the City to deal constructively with a life and death situation with a "win-win" goal in mind. The Board of Health needs to know that people everywhere support the needle exchange. Saving lives is not always a pretty scene, but we need to look at it. Having a drug problem should not be a death sentence, nor should being homeless.

◆

All B&R Needs To Do Is Put In More Energy

Mark Foutch, Olympia City Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem

Dear WIP:

I think I've just demonstrated the truth of the old saying, "The first sign of insanity is an urge to write letters to the editor." Clearly I should not have attempted to cover so much ground in such a short note. Inevitably a lot of the nuances were left out. And inevitably, it seems with WIP, malign intent was assigned to what I said, and even what I didn't say.

For example, I can't see where I "dismissed" the concerns of those who might feel threatened by the East End project. I thought I acknowledged them. But never mind.

The intent of the Council was to get the ball rolling on the East End project and let it become self-sustaining if it could. We *wanted* it to be an inclusionary process, and out intent was for Bread and Roses to participate along with all other interests in the area. It hasn't (yet) worked out the way we intended but I urge everyone to keep trying.

I did not address Ken Black's comments regarding OAPP because I was not at that meeting and did not hear what he said. It's possible he was only trying to give his honest impression of OAPP's situation. Whether he was accurate in his characterization is a good question. Whether he was reflecting City policy or his own personal preference might be another good question. No one asked me (or, so far as I know, any other Councilmember) what *we* thought. Instead, WIP whipped out two front-page "exposes" of the Council's supposed "hidden agenda."

I *was* at the first two East End meetings. Ken Black did his best to facilitate an initial "brainstorming" session. This old technique calls for any ideas to be submitted, and none rejected initially, in order to promote participation. A couple of business owners suggested closing Bread and Roses. Ken wrote those suggestions on the flip chart. He did *not* make them himself. I have no idea if they represent his personal opinion. I don't think they do. It doesn't matter. The Council makes City policy and no one on the Council advocates closing B&R. But no one asked the Council what we thought. WIP just went ahead and did its usual thing.

Unfortunately, we're far too used to this. WIP isn't the only advocate group's publication that lands in our inbaskets. For example, the Olympia Master Builders' *Chalkline* typically blasts us for what they view as over-regulation and excessive costs. And sample the Chamber of Commerce's rhetoric. I'm one of the few local elected officials with the time to read all this stuff and attempt to reply to even some of it. I think many of us just tune out a lot of it because there's only so much you can concentrate on at one time and there seems to be little we can do to change the publications' editorial stances. Militancy and an "us against them" attitude are, after all, time-honored methods of maintaining group loyalty. Advocacy groups aren't about to give them up even when some of their policy goals are adopted.

As for East End meeting locations, if Bread and Roses wishes to host a meeting, they should volunteer. If their idea isn't accepted by the group at first, they should do some political ground work with group members and present the idea again. To repeat, the Council does *not* want this to be a "City project." I know it takes energy to pursue this kind of a course, and B&R is understandably short on energy. If it's important enough, they should try to do it.

As for B&R being characterized as "the problem" in my letter, B&R has had, I think, more of an effect on the East End of downtown than, say, a pizza parlor. That's because they've taken on a bigger challenge. But we all have to be considerate of our neighbors, no matter how meritorious our mission may be.

Back to OAPP for a minute. I've been interested in this issue, off and on, for a year or so. After first meeting David Fawver at Bread and Roses, I was impressed with his candor and commitment — and depressed by the plastic containers of used needles stored in his small office. I wrote a note to one of the County Commissioners, asking that the Health Department assume the cost of disposing of those needles picked up by OAPP. I got a letter back saying why they wouldn't do that.

Sometimes things just have to come to a head, so to speak, before established policies can be re-examined. The East End project has inadvertently done this by prompting publicity on the County-OAPP disagreement. This is a scary, risky situation, but some good may come of it. In fact, some good already has.

OAPP, to me, was a County policy issue and as they'd given me their answer earlier I figured if wasn't much use pursuing. But after the panic started and I learned more, I consulted with the executive director of the Olympia AIDS Task Force and came to the conclusion that common sense called for a re-examination of the issue. Correspondence from the County that formed the basis for the City's official notice to David that he might be breaking the law also told me for the first time that needle exchange policies were made *locally*, by counties, and not prescribed by state law.

Then OAPP's supporters organized their first march effort, and an advance copy of their proposed resolution of support came to City Hall. The Council's attention at the time was almost totally absorbed with the police department leadership issue. The march, and the Council meeting, were postponed due to the windstorm. In the case, an ill wind blew some good, because during the next week I was able to discuss OAPP's resolution with the mayor and with Lara Shepard-Blue, draft my letter as an alternative course of action, circulate it to the council, and provide a copy to Lara before the march.

The march organizers responded by telling participants of that new development. Consequently, the demonstration and testimony at the council meeting were focused, the meeting was productive, and the Council's response was immediate.

What's the lesson? that issues don't march logically from concept to fruition. That people, even City Councilmembers, are human, and fallible, and distracted by more immediate concerns. That a few facts falling into place, plus activists' positive efforts, can suddenly reveal a productive course of action where none was apparent before. That blind luck, like it or not, is a factor. That we should not assume the worst about someone but (in Pat's encouraging phrase) "keep this dialogue going."

I've run on at some length here and still haven't hit all of Pat's points. WIP's deadline is imminent and I'm pooped. Let's talk more later. ◆

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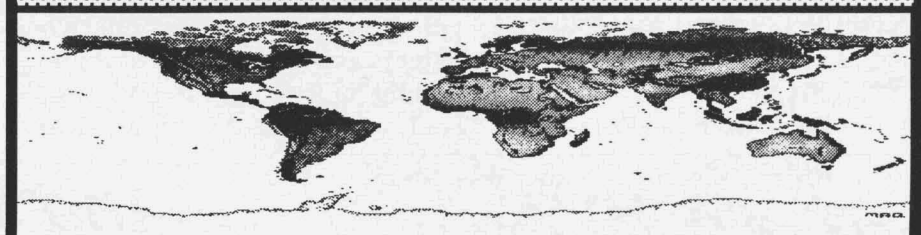

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Report on Conference

SECOND ANNUAL SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY IN OLYMPIA

Larry Mosqueda

On Saturday, November 4, 1995, the Second Annual Social Justice and Equality Conference was held at the First Christian Church in Olympia. The theme for the conference was Building Community and Fighting Intolerance. As with the first conference in 1994, this event was highly successful with the attendance and participation of over 150 regional activists who connected, networked, planned and organized.

The day started with a welcome by Clint Burlesen, a local activist with the postal union. The panel discussion on Building Community and Fighting Intolerance was begun by Linda Malenchuk; it included a special emphasis on the impact of the changing global economy on women. Jonathan Rosenblum spoke on Jobs with Justice and especially the resurgence of the labor movement, including the Boeing strike. Peter Bohmer spoke on the Current Political-Economic Context for Struggle, and Alice Zillah spoke on Youth Liberation and Youth Organizing. (Peter's and Alice's comments were printed in the November WIP.)

The group discussion afterwards indicated that the audience appreciated and built upon the sophisticated level of analysis that was presented. All of the speakers made links between the various forms of oppression and, just as important, the various links between forms of resistance. During the discussion, a point was made that perhaps we were "preaching to the converted." While in some respects that was true, it was clear that the purpose of the conference, as a conference, was to disseminate information among activists for more *effective* and *efficient* organizing and work. This was especially evident in the workshops which generated most of the work for the day.

There were approximately 18 workshops during the day that had participants numbering from five to twenty. The topics included "Military Spending: Whatever Happened to the Peace Dividend — The Intel Connection;" "Jobs with Justice and the Contract On America;" "Mumia Abu-Jamal and Political Prisoners;" "Chiapas/Mexico/Central America and Cuba;" "Racism in the 1990's — Attacks on Affirmative Action and Immigration;" "Homelessness in Olympia;" "Environmental Politics and the Political Cultural Center — The Liberation Cafe;" "Media Networking and Planning;" "Police Citizen Review Board for Olympia;" "Researching Corporations: Improving Economic Conditions for Olympia's Poor and Working Poor;" "Effective Grass Roots Organizing;" "Youth Organizing in Olympia;" "Facilitating Meetings and Democratic Leadership;" "Protecting Gay and Lesbian Rights — Fighting the Right;" and "Grant Writing."

It was in these workshops where people were able to work on concrete issues and make specific proposals, and plan specific actions for organizing.

At the Plenary Session in the late afternoon, virtually all of the workshop groups shared their work, conclusions and proposals. Among the issues discussed were the fact that Intel needs to be monitored for its connections to military, especially nuclear, issues. Plans were made to contact other groups that could be interested in researching and investigating Intel, such as WAND, Greenpeace, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Plans were also discussed to contact the various media. A group of people decided to continue working on this issue. Contact Lon Freeman for more information: 352-6555.

All of the speakers made links between the various forms of oppression and, just as important, the various links between forms of resistance.

The Jobs with Justice discussion group noted that the "Contract On America" is not a congressional publicity stunt, but a continuous program to eat away at the economic and political rights of U.S. residents. While this is, of course, negative for the people, it can also provide a forum for discussing and organizing around social issues. Specifically, many people made pledges to organize for upcoming labor rallies, to monitor local legislators, and to work on new technologies such as the Internet and E-mail as part of organizational strategies.

Several workshops such as those working on Gay and Lesbian Rights or Mexico and Caribbean Solidarity developed similar suggestions, such as regular letters to the editors. Several newspapers, such as the *Olympian* publish the vast majority of their letters, but usually only publish one letter per month per person. A group of four or five progressive people could create a steady supply of letters to the newspaper around various issues.

Specific organizing needs to be done around the anti-gay initiatives, especially if those in circulation make the ballot for 1996. The problem initiatives may be I-166 and I-167.

Several workshops mentioned the emerging, soon to be open, Liberation Cafe as a potential source of organization. It could be a center for youth organizing and information sharing. The Political-Cultural Center / Liberation Cafe was one of the very concrete ideas that emerged from the 1994 Social Justice and Equality Conference.

Judging from the response to this second conference, many people expect other concrete activities to occur. Another issue that emerged from several of the workshops was the necessity for more effective media work. This media work would entail more than utilizing existing media sources, such as newspapers, radio and public access TV, but also the creation and coordination of our own database lists and effective phone trees — including possible fundraising for a staff person who could do the work that several organizations now do in duplicate when they organize.

The idea was also suggested that progressive groups could also have a permanent billboard in Olympia which could periodically change messages. A preliminary list of progressive sources in the area has been compiled by Media Island. Contact 352-8526 for more information.

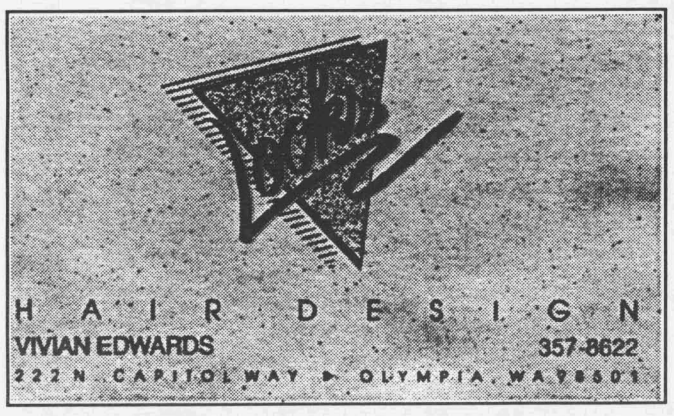
Locally, issues such as homelessness, attacks on the poor and the need for a citizen review board continue to take a necessary center stage for our work. The workshops covering local issues planned concrete support for organizations such as Bread and Roses and the Olympia AIDS Prevention Projects. Strategies were also discussed to have more shelter available to homeless people in Olympia, such as a network of individual households, contacting the over 230 churches in the area, and the planning of a Resident-Managed Community Shelter.

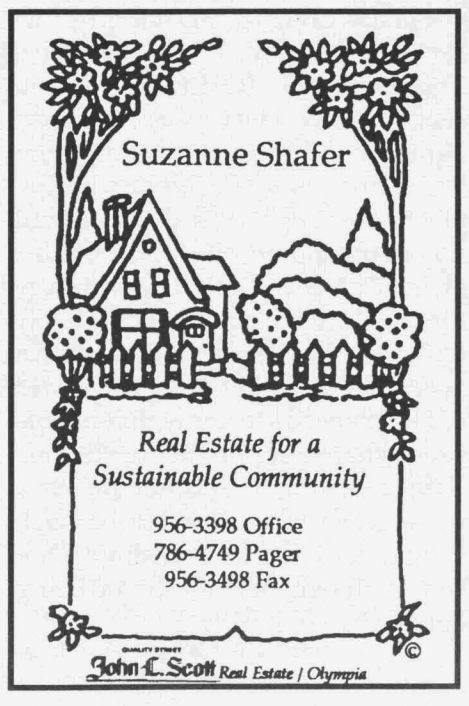
The above is only a sampling of the many ideas and energy that was exhibited at the conference.

For further follow-up, interested individuals should contact one of the sponsoring organizations listed below. Or just as important, we are capable of starting new organizations such as Food Not Bombs which provided the lunch meal for the conference and the simultaneous rally for political prisoner Leonard Peltier at the Capitol. (Thanks! Food Not Bombs)

As the opening paragraph of the informational flier for the past two years' conferences has stated: "The Olympia area is rich in progressive groups and individuals who struggle for peace, justice, and sustainability." Those groups and individuals have shown a remarkable resiliency for a number of years and do much day-to-day work, as well as respond to crisis situations. These groups have also shown an ability to work across differences that have the potential to separate them. At the end of the conference day, there was overwhelming support to continue these annual events (and, perhaps, even make them semi-annual). There will no doubt be a bigger and better Third Annual Social Justice and Equality Conference.

The sponsoring organizations were: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace; Fellowship of Reconciliation; SPEECH; Thurston County Rainbow Coalition; Works in Progress; Media island; Labor Center at TESC; Evergreen Political Information Center; Unitarian Universalist Congregation; Olympia Farm Workers Justice Committee; Coalition in Solidarity with the People of Mexico; Stonewall Youth; Pacific Northwest Region of American Friends Service Committee; Hands Off Washington; Foods Not Bombs. ◆





"Strange Days" Ahead?

Mass Base for Fascism Movement Exists

Dave Zink

Fascism is the iron hoop with which the bourgeoisie hopes to hold together the splitting barrel of capitalism.

Karl Radek.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

George Santayana.

Incipient Fascism?

The United Nations has expressed interest in the North Cascades National Park, and adjacent land in BC, as a possible location for a "World Heritage Site", due to its scenic beauty and wildlife. There is nothing new in this designation - there are many such sites around the world, including the International Peace Park on the Canadian border in North Dakota, Dinosaur Provincial Park in Alberta, and the parthenon in Athens. When the UN declares that a place is of international significance, a country doesn't relinquish a square inch of its sovereignty. What is new is how various groups on the far right of the American political spectrum are making such an issue over it. Some go so far as to assert that a UN military force is already secretly implanted on American soil in preparation for an imminent military takeover. Sightings of mysterious "black-painted helicopters under UN command" have been widely reported by these groups.

In response to gang-related violence, more citizens than ever are in favor of gun control. It took the force of hundreds of thousands of citizens united together to finally enact the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban. The far-right proclaimed this as a conspiracy to deprive law-abiding citizens of their constitutionally-guaranteed right to bear arms.

Key partners in this conspiracy are alleged to be the likes of George Bush, Bill Clinton, and other mainstream politicians - along with Jews, international speculators, Mikhail Gorbachev, and various socialists and communists. This litany of conspirators is typical of fascist demonology.

Groups like Lyndon LaRouche's outfit, along with remnants of the Ku Klux Klan, the Aryan Nations, the John Birch Society, and White Citizens' Councils are the source of these paranoid conspiracy theories. They see survivalist outfits such as the "Michigan Militia" and followers of talk-show hosts like Rush Limbaugh, as candidates for recruitment and strive to link up with them and orient them toward their own agenda.

Although rightward-leaning survivalist formations are still a long way from the storm-trooper stage of development, the mass base for a fascist movement already exists in the spectrum of ultra-right outfits coming under the general heading of the so-called "Christian Coalition". All these groups share important political views and draw their support primarily from the same mass social base - the middle class.

Financial backers of the religious right's many tax-deductible foundations, however, include many of the wealthier upper-middle class, as well as big-time capitalists.

What's going on?

We are sitting on the edge of a crisis. Society is growing increasingly polarized. Wealth is becoming more and more concentrated in the hands of the few at the top, while hard times and insecurity are growing for the rest of us. More and more people find themselves unemployed and/or homeless, or, if they still have a job, are being forced to put in more and more overtime. Why? Is it their own fault, or is there something deeper going on? Who or what to blame? In general, the working class, by everyday experience, is led toward drawing the conclusion that the *system* is the problem. Corporate control of the mass media, however, has left most people clueless and blindly frustrated with the relentless disappearance of higher-paid factory jobs, declining wages, growing crime, and insecurity.

Members of the middle class, on the other hand, feel that they have more of a stake in the system. The middle class is made up primarily of self-employed tradespeople, small-time contractors, shopkeepers, working farmers and commercial fishermen, mid-level government workers, and privileged professionals. The harder-pressed of the middle class are especially agitated by rising taxes. Workers, too, are concerned with rising taxes, but most are more concerned about the failure of wages to keep up with rising prices. In addition, they see the sword of layoffs hanging over their heads by a thread.

The middle class is growing increasingly concerned about bankruptcy and loss of livelihood. This threat is bound to grow with further shocks to the system. Many have been taken in by the myth that their taxes are going up because of "big government's" policy of giving welfare to those who refuse to just "go out and get a job". Such an explanation for the oppressive rise of taxation doesn't just fall from the sky. This message has been hammered into the American people for at least the last 40 years by the corporate-owned media. Under the influence of the right-wing populists, many have gravitated politically toward the Right.

But the facts are there for anyone to see: Corporations are growing leaner and meaner, cutting costs by computerizing and by laying off workers. This results in raging unemployment and insecurity. As more workers are forced into part-time and/or temporary employment in nonproductive, meaningless "McJobs", alienation is growing. Because it is so much cheaper, multi-national corporations find it more profitable to exploit third-world labor - even highly-skilled engineers. For the first time in history, the US has become a net exporter of capital. There is a word for this: **Imperialism**.

Most of the government budget is spent on corporate welfare: handouts to the big capitalists in general and to the military-industrial sector in particular. This problem is being aggravated by the massive shifting of the tax burden from those at the very top of the economic hierarchy to working people. The tax rip-off is just another way of raising the rate of profit at the worker's expense.

We are sitting on the edge of a crisis. Society is growing increasingly polarized...with the relentless disappearance of higher-paid factory jobs, declining wages, growing crime, and insecurity.

Link between populism and fascism

Fascism could capture the emerging populist formations somewhere down the road. Unless the working class constructs an alternative, revolutionary party in time, history could very well repeat itself.

As working class poverty grows, social tensions mount. Political polarization increases, and class bias becomes more naked. It is the radical right, not the worker's and social justice movements that will be the first to grow. Why? The "religious" right is now the dominant force in the Republican Party. The right-wing has a lot more money than the left, which means that Rush Limbaugh and Ollie North are reaching a much wider audience than are progressives like Jim Hightower or Jerry Brown. While the Right grows out of everyday bourgeois politics, progressive politics requires a paradigm shift from the capitalist-induced mindset.

In the USA today, before any real upsurge of worker resistance has begun, the middle class sees nowhere to go but toward the right. With a few notable exceptions, the present union leadership isn't very exciting, nor has it provided any alternative vision to the status quo. Instead, too many labor leaders seem to think capitalism is the only possibility.

Rightist forces are already winning a hearing among the middle class. They will mislead many disoriented workers, wrapping their reactionary and counterfeit patriotism in packaging that sounds populist. Growing numbers will become susceptible to reactionary explanations of why society is gripped in a deepening crisis and what should be done to "restore order".

In the absence of revolutionary working-class leadership, the rebelliousness of youth can easily be lead into ineffective ultra-leftism or terrorism. For every young person attracted to the progressive movement right now, another one or two are attracted to various right-wing outfits. It is important for each of us to reach out to every young rebel we can, before he or she becomes committed to crank ideas and is pulled toward the ultra-right.

How Fascists take power:

1. Unstable conditions create fear and insecurity among the middle class. Middle class and demoralized workers supply personnel and material aid to fight working class power.

2. Racism and sectarianism is encouraged and used to divide and weaken the working class. A charismatic right-wing populist leader emerges. Unions are smashed. Intimidation spiral of violence, arrests, torture, and disappearances neutralizes the working class as a political force.

3. Big business is saved and strengthened. Environmental quality deteriorates. Eugenic measures are instituted. Opposition is driven underground. Kiss freedom good-bye.

4. Middle classes are impoverished, and proletarianized.

The Pornographication of Politics

In the 1920's and 30's, the Nazis railed against the scandalous moral degeneracy of the Weimar Republic, and how the liberal politicians were setting a bad example for the working class. Today, demagogues like Pat Buchanan and Rush Limbaugh are again raising the banner of "cultural war".

Let's not get distracted. Does America really need more exposes of politicians' sexual foibles? Nobody's perfect! What we **do** need to do is to explain why the working class has no common interests with the class these politicians speak for. People are rightfully outraged when they take a look at what's happening in our justice system. The victims of the system -the unemployed and homeless who need the most help - get the most harassment, while the real criminals, the beneficiaries of the system, get richer. We need to advance class understanding and consciousness to explain why these things are happening, not get side-tracked into booby traps!

Next month, Dave will explore the question of ***What Is Fascism?*** ◆

Portrait of a Mega-National Company: Wal*Mart

Exposé on Wal-Mart's 'Success' and *Real* Costs

WIP News Service

Over the past two decades Americans have experienced a deep decline in their economic well-being. This decline is measured by trends such as 20% decline in the average weekly wage, 15% decline in benefits like paid holidays, etc., the most rapid concentration of wealth in our history, and the decline of the median family income for a majority of Americans. At present, the upper 1% of Americans owns more than the lower 90%. The upper 20% of the population has an income ten times greater than the lower 20% and almost as much as the rest of the population combined.

Wal-Mart is certainly not the only or even one of the primary causes of these trends. But it is a major contributor. Wal-Mart is an important example of how wealth is being concentrated in the United States. Through its low wages and destruction of small business, it is also the single most important vehicle for the decline of America's middle class.

In 1990, Wal-Mart's became this country's largest retailer, edging out both Sears and K-Mart on total sales. In the ten years between 1985 and 1995, Wal-Mart's sales grew from $6.5 billion to $82.5 billion, with a projection of $100 billion in 1996. They own 40% of the retail market. Only three Fortune 500 companies, General Motors, Ford Motors, and Exxon have higher sales. When founder Sam Walton died in 1992, Wal-Mart's profits were double those of K-mart. The one stop, high-volume, discount formula of Wal-Mart made him a business legend and the richest man in America.

The Wal-Mart concept and strategy is carried out in its day to day operations. Low operating costs allow Wal-Mart to discount its prices, while maintaining a high profit ratio, which keeps pressure on the competition. The Wal-Mart edge rests on reducing labor costs at home and buying products off shore where they are produced more cheaply.

As Wal-Mart builds into an area, it moves from a pattern of many smaller stores to super-centers. The smaller stores are the first wave used to capture a beach-head in an area-wide market that a super-center can exploit. Wal-Mart started here in Omak, Yakima, Shelton, and Kennewick. They have twelve stores presently, and given the size of our state, the Wal-Mart build-up could equal as many as fifty stores. In Olympia, they are trying to buy Candlewood Manor out from under the 120 low/fixed-income trailer residents who currently live there. Many residents are retired and/or elderly.

Community Development
"Always Low Prices, Always"

Wal-Mart adversely affects local economies by forcing small local businesses to close and by taking money away from the local communities; money once spent in other stores, money once deposited in local banks, money once contributed to local organizations and groups.

Retail sales data from both Ikanogan and Grays Harbor counties has been collected and analyzed. Wal-Mart did add to the retail sales in its immediate vicinity. However, Wal-Mart added virtually nothing to the retail sales in either of these two counties. Wal-Mart simply took sales away from other retailers. In Okanogan county before Wal-Mart entered the market, the retail sales in the county grew by an average of 8.3% a year. The year Wal-Mart entered the market, they grew by 9%.

But the distribution of retail sales changed dramatically. Wal-Mart sales accounted for all of the growth in retail sales and then some. The growth in sales in the local hardware stores, clothing stores, furniture stores and other specialty stores was flat. The impact on the other general merchandise stores in the area was huge. Sales in local variety stores dropped by 86%. Four general merchandise stores closed in that year.

In Donaldsonville, Louisiana, they found that all the new jobs Wal-Mart brought to town had been more than offset by jobs lost from business closings. Ten years before Wal-Mart opened, they had 20 business failures; and ten years after Wal-Mart, they have had 185 failures.

Wal-Mart Employee "Family"

Wal-Mart is one of this country's foremost devotees of the "new" personnel policies. Wal-Mart has developed and implemented a sophisticated employee involvement program which utilizes a wide array of gimmicks to involve the employee in the "family."

It is no accident that almost 90% of Wal-Mart workers are part-time. First, part-time workers are much more vulnerable than full time workers. Because they have no job security, the personnel program will have a much greater impact on them. Because they have no support outside of the company, their dependency will allow Wal-Mart to more certainly mold them to the Wal-Mart image.

Wal-Mart has a strict dress code which utilizes the Wal-Mart uniform. Wal-Mart requires that its employees subscribe to a strict code of personal conduct, including how employees relate to one another off the job. As one well publicized New York couple found out, Wal-Mart does not hesitate to enforce its rules regarding off the clock behavior; in this case, the Wal-Mart prohibition against two employees developing an intimate relationship.

Secondly, part-time workers cost less, primarily because the company can often avoid paying them the meager benefits the company ostensibly offers. In Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Wal-Mart employs 40 people; however, only five are full-time employees. The other 35 employees get 21 hours to 28 hours per week — no vacations, no sick leave, no paid holidays. Finally, part-time workers are more easily laid off and their hours much more easily manipulated.

Last Christmas at the Wal-Mart in Aberdeen, after the retail holiday season was over, food banks in the area noticed a flood of Wal-Mart employees seeking help. Discreet inquiries disclosed that the company had reduced the hours of these workers by thirty percent or better.

Wal-Mart joined other major employers of part-time, low wage workers in the successful effort to block health care reform. These large corporations were particularly concerned with provisions that would have mandated that all employers provide employees with health insurance or the imposition of a tax to pay for publicly provided health care.

Wal-Mart uses the usual techniques for implementing its anti-union practices. Wal-Mart sends the message to the workers that unions are not needed and definitely not wanted in the "family." It takes pains to insure that active union sympathizers are not employed at Wal-Mart. Finally, Wal-Mart sends the signal that it will strenuously resist any organizing efforts. They closed down their only unionized store.

Wal-Mart's reasons for preventing unionization are clear. Unions would seriously undermine Wal-Mart's capacity to control its work force through the imposition of intrusive rules. Unions would give the employees a real voice, providing protection against the company's arbitrary decisions. Also, unions mean better pay. National studies show that unionized employees in the retail trades earn more than their non-union counterparts. Non-unionized workers earn salaries 25% to 35% lower than the union standard in any given area.

"We Buy American, So You Can"

The trade deficit is primarily built up out of the thousands and thousands of small ticket items imported and consumed every day. But the impact of the trade deficit on small ticket items on the United States is almost studiously ignored. The fact that all too many American companies profit off of the value they can add to these commonplace imported products creates a great deal of ambiguity in response to these deficits.

Wal-Mart's lack of concern for those who produce for them goes beyond its own domestic workforce. Wal-Mart, like most discount operations, buys off shore. Purchasing cheap goods on the back of foreign labor has two important effects: it undermines industry and jobs at home and it makes the exploitation of labor abroad, especially the labor of women and children, possible.

The low costs of labor in countries producing goods from garments to rugs is generated by wide spread child labor, squalid and dangerous factory conditions, and repressive policies enforced by governments eager to please. The primary foreign suppliers operate in third world countries. Insofar as Wal-Mart is a major purchaser of goods produced under abusive conditions, Wal-Mart participates in creating that abuse.

Wal-Mart promotes itself as a retailer who "Buys American." Several years ago, a television news magazine discovered that Wal-Mart routinely puts labels indicating that an item was made in the US on imported products. Further investigation revealed that the products labeled "Made in America" were produced

(Continued next page)

Former Chinese political prisoner, Harry Wu(pictured at left) joined in support of striking Boeing machinists to make links between child and forced labor, unions, and Wal-Mart at this United Food and Commercial Workers December 1st rally at the Auburn Supermall. Wal-Mart is anti-union and buys imported goods.

The Wal-Mart edge rests on reducing labor costs at home and buying products off shore where they are produced more cheaply.

(Wal-Mart, continued)

in factories employing children.

Apparel accounts for 30-40% of Wal-Mart's total non-food sales, which are 70-80% of Wal-Mart business. Making the most conservative estimate, Wal-Mart now sells $15-20 billion worth of clothing every year. In today's Wal-Mart, almost all the apparel, most of the toys, and many of the appliances Wal-Mart and other large retailers now sell are produced overseas.

In a trip to the Wal-Mart store in Aberdeen, an investigator inventoried the merchandise displayed for the product's country of origin. The products were found to have been manufactured in Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Pakistan, El Salvador, Bahrain, Belize, Taiwan and the Dominican Republic. Twenty items were checked before one was found with a "Made in the USA" label. The "Made in the USA" label covered another label which read "imported by Wal-Mart, Bentonville, Arkansas." A label check in both the Aberdeen and Chehalis Wal-Marts did not turn up a single Washington state label.

China, a favorite Wal-Mart trading partner, enjoys the US's "Most Favored Nation" status and is the world's largest seller of contract labor. Wal-Mart owns fourteen brands of shoes and boots which are actually produced in China. By 1990, Wal-Mart was importing over four million pounds of these shoes a year. Since 1985, 234 American shoe plants have been closed; over 28,000 jobs in the shoe industry have been lost.

Many of the items found in the Wal-Mart store are on the US Department of Labor's list of goods produced by child labor. These items include shirts and jackets from China and Bangladesh; sporting accessories from Pakistan; footwear from Brazil. There were garments from Guatemala.

Worldwide, the child and contract labor in certain industries is massive. Under certain arrangements, workers are forced into crews either shipped to other nations or to internal industrial zones. There, they work for startlingly low wages. There are 900,000 children below the age of fourteen working in the carpet industry in Pakistan. Over 80% of the weavers in Punjab are under fifteen years of age. 30% are under ten. In India there are 300,000 children engaged in making carpets alone.

Overall, there are 55 million child laborers. These children characteristically work from 6am to 10pm, seven days a week. The children often sleep in their factories. They are often sexually and physically abused. They are victims of the many diseases and physical injuries associated with their trade: disfigured backs and shortness of height due to bending over, tuberculosis due to breathing in flying fibers, and hands deeply scarred by thread.

The work of these children has a reciprocal impact on workers in the United States. First, the kinds of work now performed by children producing garments and household goods — was once performed by American workers. Second, the workers who continue to work in those industries in the United States find their wages, benefits and working conditions forced lower in the name of competing with the offshore industry.

Sprawl Mall

The Wal-Mart plan contributes mightily to urban sprawl or its rural equivalent, small town devouring strip malls. The Wal-Mart plan is a major factor in creating for urban and rural areas alike the downward spiral in the quality of American jobs.

Wal-Mart stores are often associated with specific environment problems. That is due, in part, to the fact that they use large parcels of cheap land for their developments. Such land is usually found in fringe areas where urban infrastructure has not been developed and where environmentally sensitive areas are often located. Here in Washington state, they have chosen at least two sites that contain wetlands and one site that is in an area with severe problems with water run-off.

Beyond site specific problems, Wal-Mart almost always creates environmental problems in two key areas of concern: traffic congestion and out of scale development. Wal-Mart is built around the automobile. The sales volume Wal-Mart thrives on can only be generated by drawing customers from a wide radius; a radius which may be as much as fifty miles in some of the rural markets Wal-Mart serves. Wal-Mart superstores include 6,000 parking slots on fifty acres of asphalt. It is estimated that these stores will dump more than 70,000 additional automobile trips on the county's roads each day.

How to Stop Sprawl

Throughout the nation, local governments are still rolling out the welcome mat to sprawl-malls. Some local officials still pursue the will-a-wisp of economic development, believing that a Wal-Mart actually brings economic benefit to the community.

"This is true for two reasons," according to Al Norman, publisher of Sprawl-Busters Alert: "1) we have left our zoning by-laws and Master Plans wide open for developers and megastores to exploit, and 2) we have becoms a nation of binge shoppers, consuming items as if there were no tommorrow. If we don't define growth, it will define us. Is it more important to have Korean placemats and shoes from Brazil, or a liveable community?."

He points out that there are more than 100 citizen's coalitions fighting to keep Wal-Mart "units" from coming to their town. In addition to not shopping at such sprawl-malls, his suggestions for preventing future ones are to:

"• enact a one year building moratorium to re-tool the community's land use Master Plan and zoning by-laws.

• rewrite Master Plans to confine commercial activity to existing commercial zones, and to revitalize downtown retail zones.

• place caps on the size of retail buildings, especially in outlying areas.

• create zoning review criteria that require major developments to enhance and protect the value of property in the community.

• require large projects to pay for an independent, public cost-benefit analysis.

• get activists appointed or elected to planning and zoning boards."

Much of the information (and even complete sentences!) was taken from the study, ***Wal-Mart Comes to Washington,*** *by Don Hopps and the Coalition for a Livable Washington. For a complete copy write: 2111 E. Union, Suite "A" Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 324-3628.*

Wal-Mart Legend

Wal-Mart Stores

Wal-Mart leads the discount store industry with value pricing and customer focused merchandising in 1,990 stores in 49 states, with 90 to 100 units planned to open in fiscal 1996.

Supercenters

Adding groceries to general merchandise, Supercenters are the company's fastest-growing concept, more than doubling to 443 units in fiscal 1995 and set to add 90 to 100 this year.

Sam's Clubs

More than 425 units make Sam's the leader in the US warehouse club industry, with growth occuring from the renewed emphasis on business customers as well as individuals.

Distribution Centers

Thirty regional or food distribution centers and other specialized facilities provide cost-effective deliveries. In aggregate, they shipped about 980 million cases of merchandise in fiscal 1995.

McLane Company

With over 36,000 customers, McLane is the nation's largest distributor of food and merchandise to convenience stores and serves selected Wal-Marts, Sam's Clubs and Supercenters.

International

There are 123 Wal-Mart stores in Canada, 96 units in Mexico and three clubs in Hong Kong, with units set to open in Argentina, Brazil and China in fiscal 1996.

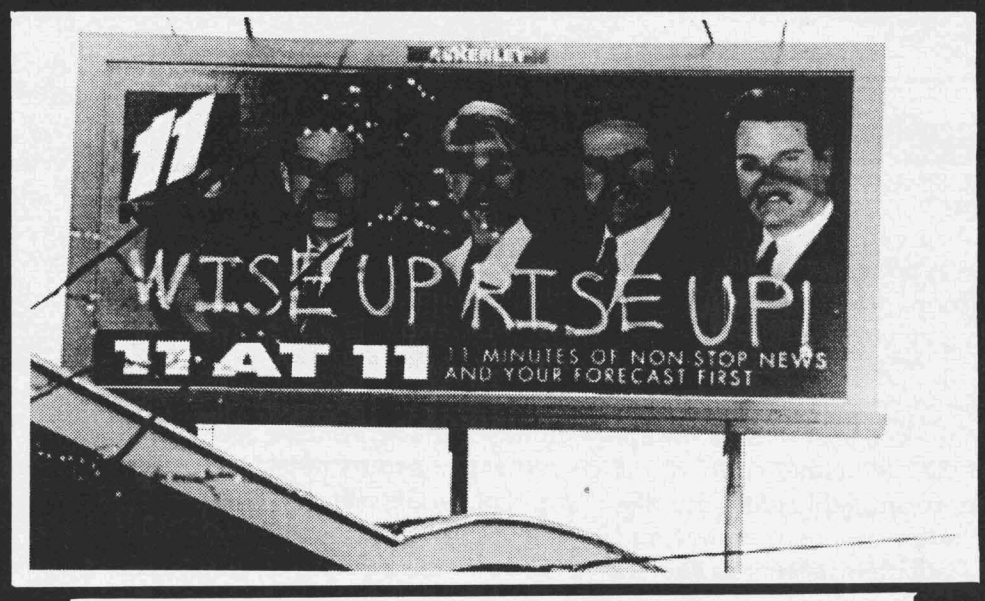
source: Wal-Mart Annual Report 1995

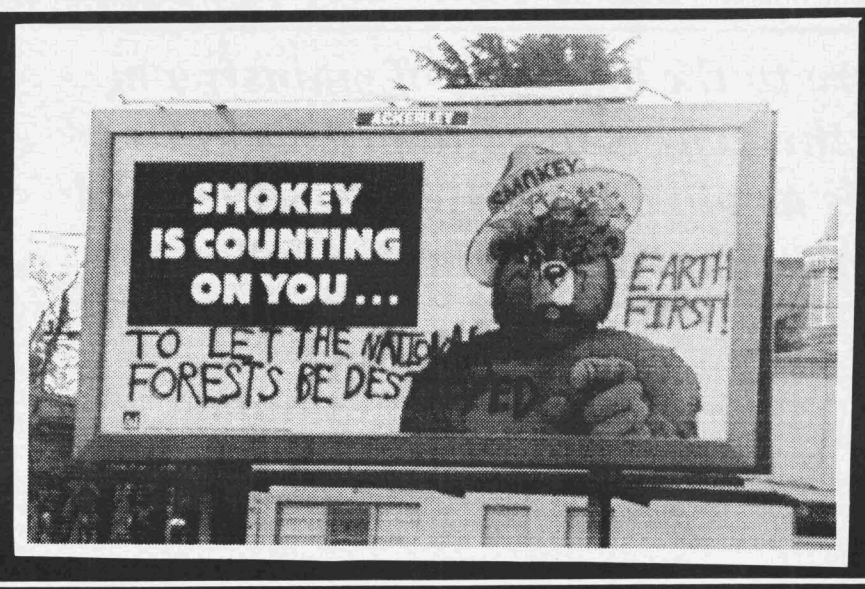
Chronicle of Activism • The Community Photo Album

(send in your photos)

Local billboard improvers give motorists a chance to switch gears while cruising through downtown Olympia.

photos by Hali Panneton





Questioning the"Peace" in Palestine

Craig Hymson

Again the flags are waving, and the people are dancing. Who could blame them. After 28 years of daily humiliation, terror, curfews, beatings imprisonment and occupation, the sight of Israeli run prisons emptying and Israeli troops rolling out of town, is certainly cause for elation. I myself was almost in tears as I sat alone in a coffee shop and listened to the radio coverage of the December 12, Israeli troop redeployment from Nablus, the largest in the West Bank. Sitting here in Olympia, my college town , I reflected back on a day one year ago, that I spent with a friend in Nablus, her college town. I remembered the prison, it's ugly grey stones surrounded by barbed wire , flying the Israeli flag. I remembered her friends and fellow students who we met with, some of whom spent years inside that hated building. Now it is empty and she and her friends are probably dancing, and singing and cheering. How I wished I could share some of the joy with them, as I shared some of the sorrow.

But after a few moments I wondered to myself , when all of the dust kicked up from dancing in the streets settles, after the last flag raising ceremony , how much better off will their lives rally be?

I first arrived in the region nine months after the historic handshake and signing of the Declaration of Principals on the White House lawn. It was also one week before Yasir Arafat's historic homecoming to the Gaza Strip, and the ensuing mass demonstrations by right wing Israelis against his arrival. For those truly seeking a just peaceful resolution to the conflict it was a time of wavering hope and increasing disappointment. Something many Jews , at least American Jews I know, fail to understand. Most liberal Jewish synagogues celebrated the "historic opportunity for peace" while conservatives (including some in my own family) despaired that "we were giving the Arabs to much!" For the Palestinians, the eu-

...I wondered to myself, when all of the dust kicked up from dancing in the streets settles, after the last flag raising ceremony , how much better off will their lives really be?

phoria and celebration of the fall of ninety three , had given way to disillusionment and increasing despair.

Though no one thought this particular peace process was ideal, and most Palestinians I met, saw it as a week watered down version of what they had fought for, many told themselves it was the best that could be done under difficult circumstances. One Palestinian cab driver, whose opinion about the peace process I sought, asked me rhetorically "What have we left to lose ? For our kids sake, not to see any more suffering , Cant we try it? Won't there always be time to again pick up the stone if we have to?" Many , seemed to share his sentiments, unsatisfied but hopeful, and reluctant to reject it all.

And there were also many I met who, saw it as a tease, dead- end, or even worse, a sellout. Who wondered if the "so called peace process", as it was commonly known, just enough to mute the international community's concern , just enough to appease enough warn, weary, war fatigued Palestinians, just enough to deliver to Israel peace and trade agreements with all of the rest of the Arab world, undercutting the remaining Pan-Arab support for Palestinian liberation.

This was the position of another of my friends, a Palestinian Israeli citizen. Once optimistic about the peace accords, he and his family, went to see and celebrate , the Palestinian flags flying legally for the first time the day the troops pulled out of Ariha (Jericho). Months later, as Israel and Jordan were signing their peace treaty, he asked me , "What have they given us? We gave them the keys to the Arab world, what have they given our people, the autonomy to take out our own garbage? Is that what the Intifada was about?" Last week as I read in the newspaper that Israel and Syria will be stepping up their U. S. Brokered peace talks in Maryland, his bitter words echoed through my head once again. I wonder if those who are today high from celebration, are in for the same crash and burn so many others, are feeling.

The fact is, Palestinians continue to suffer political and economic injustice at the hands of the Israeli government. In the Gaza strip, 5,000 Israeli settlers, backed by 4,500 Israeli troops, continue to consume sixteen times more water per person than the two million Palestinian Gazans. While the daily terror has decreased, Israeli soldiers still enforce military human rights violations, such as demolishing Palestinian homes in zones surrounding the settlements. The Gaza/ Israeli border is still frequently closed to Palestinian travel (settlers are rarely restricted access), cutting off thousands of impoverished people from their low wage jobs in Israel. In the West Bank, despite Israeli promises of a settlement freeze, growth among the 150 settlements continues. According to last September's Foundation for Middle East Peace *Report On Israeli Settlement In The Occupied Territories* , 5,000 dwelling units are currently under construction in the Israeli settlements of the West Bank.

Tragically , it seems that the limited autonomy gained is also tainted, as serious questions are arising about the, democratic nature of Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority. Reports of Human and civil rights violations are abundant. In February of 1995, Raji Sourani, a lawyer with the Gaza Center for Rights and Law, Gaza's sole human rights organization, was arrested a week after the

(Continued next page)

Bosnia

If They're Making Peace, Why Are They Driving Tanks?

Ron Jacobs

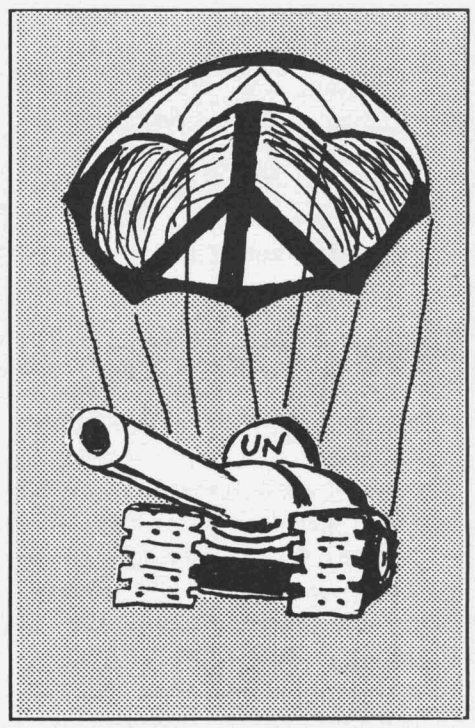
In what may very well be the ultimate realization of the Orwellian dictum that "War is Peace, Peace is War", NATO troops aching for a "chance to do what they've been trained to do", (AP, 12/5/95) are moving into the not-very-old country of Bosnia as I write. In the US, liberals and most of those to their left either support this movement or are eerily silent; middle-of-the-roaders support the move, and only neo-isolationist America Firsters question it — not seeing clearly enough the US interest in the region.

Contrary to the babbling of mainstream media, this war is more than four years old. It is as old as imperialist rivalry and will not end until imperialism ends.

Clinton, in a stock speech to the nation, played the human rights card while insisting that the troops were going to enforce peace, not make war. Although there is no doubt in virtually anyone's mind that there have been gross abuses of human rights in the war, one wonders how adding at least another 60,000 troops more heavily armed than any of those currently there will actually end these abuses in the long term. Of course, like all those appalled by stories of rape and mass murder, I certainly hope such activity stops. It's just that I don't trust the US military nor the mindset that considers secure borders as peace to do the job. It's not that most of the GIs who will serve are not honorable folks, it's just that killing others at the bidding of empire, no matter what the given reason, is not an honorable job.

There's something greater than the prevention of human rights abuses at stake here. Cheerleaders for the new world order call it "taking advantage of the unipolar moment." In other words, while the rest of the world founders either because they lack the will, the cash, or the military might to extend their influence, the United States is using whatever means its people will tolerate to expand its spheres of power. From Saudi Arabia to Bolivia to eastern Europe, the US military is setting up shop in places it never was before. Why? To control and expand American influence and holdings. While the reasons for a US presence in the conservative Arab states is apparent, as are the reasons for its continued expansion in Latin America (to protect corporate investment), the stakes in eastern Europe and the Balkans, like those in Vietnam, are not as clear. However, they are just as important.

So, whether through diplomacy or its extension — war — it's clear that the US will have a major role and presence in Bosnia before long. Not since Ottoman rule has an outside empire been able to rule the Bosnian real estate. The 20th century history of the region is a history of continually shifting power and borders. Contrary to the babbling of mainstream media, this war is more than four years old. It is as old as imperialist rivalry and will not end until imperialism ends. There have been (and will continue to be), periods where populations and borders are relatively "secure," but there will not be real peace until it is no longer profitable to petty warlords to stoke the fires of cultural difference and ultimately become the servants of outside forces, whether those forces are the Hapsburgs, the Csar, the Nazis, or the NATO corporation. ◆



(Palestine, continued)

Center's press release appealing to Arafat to cancel his decision to establish military courts . Last may the Authority closed the pro-Hamas newspaper, al-Waton , for three months for "publishing material deemed detrimental to Palestinian national unity and security." The paper's Editor in Chief, Sayyib Abu Musamih, was sentenced by the military court to two years in prison for "writing seditious material and libeling the Palestinian National Authority and it's security apparatus." He was arrested at Midnight and tried and convicted in less than twenty four hours after his arrest. On last December 12, Dr.. Eyad El-Serraj, High Commissioner of the Independent Palestinian Commission for Citizen's Rights , was arrested for condemning the Authority's human rights record. He was pressured to sign a statement promising to stop criticizing Attorney general Khalid al-Qidrah. Although he refused and was released eight hours after the ordeal began, the arrest was a clear message about the Authority's ability and willingness to govern in a humane and democratic way. In an interview I conducted with Dr. Sarraj in Gaza a year ago, printed in last September's WIP, he commented that , "...all of the feelings of hope that we were going to have a fair and just Authority that treats people equally and according to the law really disappeared." Apparently in a years time things have only gotten worse.

Another common complaint about the Authority is one of nepotism; Yasir Arafat only appoints people close to him to positions of power. On January 20, elections to the Palestinian council will take place. This new council will be the governing body of now semi-autonomous Palestine. Arafat is expected to retain power, since only one candidate , Samiha Khalil, a politically unknown leader of a respected West Bank charity, will be challenging him for the executive post. However, the elections are expected to bring some measure of restraint to Arafat's power; Over 700 people have registered as candidates for council seats, ensuring a degree of plurality in the new decision making body. In spite of this, there is still much uncertainty surrounding the legitimacy of the elections , as talks to bring more militant opposition groups into the fold to participate have failed.

Despite my current grim outlook, I see some glimmerings of hope and change. In light of the recent assassination of Israeli P.M. Yitzach Rabin, by a right wing Jew, the world media appears to have focussed again on the violent and fanatical behavior of the settlers and their supporters (as opposed to the previous months coverage, portraying them as non-violent activists). The assassination itself appears to have galvanized many previously, middle of the road Israelis, to join the call for peace, after experiencing a taste of what their society could be like if left to the charge of fanatics and demagogues. Newly inducted Prime Minister Perez, always less of Hawk than his predecessor, has recently publicly stated his desire for halting settlement expansion, as well as his lack of inclination to annex certain West Bank settlements as part of " Greater Jerusalem", something Rabin was intending.

And perhaps the newly acquired tastes of freedom - Israeli troop redeployment and modest gains in autonomy - will provide enough breathing space, for the Palestinian people to gather together and create a plan to fully satisfy their hunger for liberation.

In 1994, On Academic contract with The Evergreen State College, Craig spent six months in Israel and the Occupied Territories, exploring the possibilities for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. ◆

Getting Listened to by Letter

Katherine MacRae

In todays world there are many issues that need to be resolved. Each of us have things we would like to see changed. One of the ways to help facilitate change is through letter writing. Letters to have impact. According to Betty Bumpers, Founder of Peace Links and wife of Senator Dale Bumpers, D-Arkansas,"I've seen it happen, I have seen letters come home in the briefcase and appear in speeches on the Senate floor the next morning."

Guidelines for effective letter writing are quite simple and easy to follow. First it is necessary to make it easy for your reader to agree. This is accomplished by avoiding words that draw attention to you, the writer, instead of to the topic. "I'm angry, shocked, stunned because..." "My faith has been destroyed..." Focus on you and not on the issue.

Avoid using big words, overly technical terms, long sentences, puns, and overstatements. The pusillanimous White House advisors is a good example.

It is also good to avoid being judgmental or name calling.

The second thing to work on is writing effectively. This means writing when an issue is currently in the news or legislation is pending. It also means sticking to the topic.

State the central idea of your letter in the introduction. This allows the reader to know what your focus is. It also keeps the reader form forgetting what you are saying because he focused on finding out your saying it about.

Choose subjects that you care about. Writing about an issue that isn't one your emotionally invested in shows by the lack of sincerity. Research your subject and include references (one or two) in your letter. Attach one to three clippings from local papers to support what you are saying.and Always follow up on any replies that you receive.

For a list of federal government officials, national publications or audience service for national television call the reference desk of the local library or the information number for state government. National telephone lists are also available.

When you write about an issue, write as an individual and not as part of a group. You are the voter not the organization. If you are too young to vote the congress person will know that your parents aren't; the assumption is that you are reflecting the views of your parents.

Avoid the use of jargon, obscenities, local buzz words. Never assume that anyone knows everything about an issue. Have a friend who isn't evolved in the issue read your letter if they have questions or don't understand something in the letter chances are that the intended reader won't understand either.

When you write about an issue, write as an individual and not as part of a group. You are the voter not the organization.

Other points to remember are, type or handwrite legibly, be clear and concise, limit the letter to one page, send your letter to more than one person, issue send copies to your local officials and to your national officials. At the bottom of the letter you can put cc which means copy to and list who will receive that letter. When the reader knows that others will be seeing the same letter they know that you are communicating your concerns to others. This means they are less apt to file your letter in the trash.

Beyond War, a group that is working toward world peace, has an information folder called "Letter Writing Guidelines". To recieve a copy of this folder write to: Beyond War, 222 high Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301-1097 or call (415) 328-7756 ◆

Misplaced Priorities In Federal Budget

by Defense Monitor

In considering the President's FY 1995 Proposed Federal Budget, Congress is:

Adding

$7 billion in military spending
$1.3 billion for the LHD-7 amphibious assault ship
$974 million for the LPD-17 amphibious transport ship
$770 million for weapons and equip for the National Guard and Reserve
$650 million for the DDG-51 Arleigh Burke destroyer
$500 million for military construction projects
$493 million for the B-2 bomber
$450 million for a National Missile Defense System
$250 million for the F-15 fighter
$175 million for the F-16 fighter
$100 million for the Comanche helicopter
$75 million for the Blackhawk helicopter

While reducing or eliminating

Substance abuse prevention
AIDS education and training centers
Low-income home energy assistance for needy residents
Energy conservation and environmental protection
Federal school-to-work programs
Vocational and adult education
Head Start early education
The Goals 2000 education improvement program
Summer employment and training for economically disadvantaged youths
Federal legal assistance for the poor
United Nations peacekeeping

"Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

– George Bernard Shaw

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PO Box 105 Olympia, WA 98507 Phone 943-1624

Lois Gibbs

January 11 • 10-12pm
The Matrix, 434 Prindle, Chehalis
Lois is a housewife from Love Canal and author of *Dying from Dioxin*
Info: Susan at 978-4205

Nicaragua Update: Santo Tomas 1995

Mon., January 29th, 7:00-9:00 pm
Location: to be announced

Jean Eberhardt will show slides of her December visit to Santo Tomas, Nicaragua. In October two Santo Tomas community leaders, Aurora Baez Bravo and Reinita Cabrera Raudez, visited Thurston County. In November, our local community sent medical and school supplies to assist the community in Santo Tomas through a Pastors for Peace Caravan. Jean will provide updates on Aurora and Reinita as well as the Santo Tomas community. She will have slides showing materials that were sent down in the caravan and defining current needs.

For more information contact Peggy or Richard Smith at 754-8829.

20 Years of Injustice!

Take it to the FBI Offices & US Embassies and Consulates

Tuesday, February, 6, 1996

Noon at Seattle Federal Building Plaza on 2nd & Marion

International Protest Against FBI Abuse and Terrorism and for Justice for Leonard Peltier and All Political Prisoners Info: 206-383-9108

Liberation Café

Olympia Political Cultural Center
Wednesday, January 10th
Wednesday, January 24th
7pm at 116 4th Ave E
Top floor of Bulldog News
New members are encouraged to attend an orientation session—with refreshments!!— at 6:30 P.M.
For more info:, call 493-6601 ◆

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace

Tuesdays, January 2nd & 16th
7pm at Liberation Cafe, 116 4th Ave
Informational discussion on Intel; planning a protest against Newt's visit to Seattle • Call 956-1771

Olympia FOR Monthly Speaker Series

Third Sunday of Month
Thurston County Courthouse Building 1
Call 491-9093 for info.

Hands Off Washington

General Meeting
Last Tuesday of Month
United Churches • Capital & 11th
Call 786-6608 for info

Food Not Bombs

serves free organic vegetarian food
Sundays 1pm
in Sylvester Park
Meetings: Wednesday 6pm
TESC CAB 1st floor

Support for Women's Clinic and Choice

Thursdays 8:30 am - 3 pm
1100 Eastside Street NE

say this. In the first place, I wasn't shocked about Fuhrman (except for his being caught and exposed). Their shock speaks volumes about their denial of racism in this country and hence their lack of effort to end it. How can we look at the evidence and use it in a murder case, knowing it was collected by a fervent racist who bragged about falsifying evidence and abusing citizens, who lied under oath as a witness?

"Blacks are more skeptical about the case. Why?"

Are you kidding? 65% of the 1.2 million Americans in jail are black or brown. Even during the apartheid years, the U.S. had more blacks in jail than South Africa. Go read some history and then come ask me that.

"Simpson bought his acquittal, with that "Dream Team."'

Give me a break. Gil Garcetti's people were in battalion strength, and he spared no expense. Lance Ito gave the prosecution every advantage, and Marcia Clark's closing argument was beyond excellent. But the prosecution's case was weak due to lack of evidence and poor procedures. No weapon, no witnesses; only circumstances based on the bark of a dog. It was not enough for the burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Paralleling the debate about the verdict was the debate about racism. Many whites believe that there isn't much racism any more, we handled that twenty years ago, and as a matter of fact they've seen more racism toward them because they're white, in recent years. Who the hell are we to talk about racism any more?

Well, sorry to disrupt your comfort zone. We didn't get racism handled twenty years ago, it's still very much alive thanks to your Ronald Reagan and people like him, whom you supported. You don't know the concept of racism. How many of your people were enslaved based on race? How many erased from their indigenous homeland? How many raped and lynched, by the very police who should uphold the laws?

Until thirty years ago, we couldn't vote -- no matter how much property we had.

During and after the Simpson trial, we had a national conversation about race. It was wonderfully uncomfortable. Many white people said, "Jerome, I feel comfortable talking with you, we've known each other a while. You know, I don't see you as black, I see you as a person."

You don't see me as black?

Is that why you say that I don't "sound black" on the phone?

How can you see me as a person, yet deny my blackness, and say it like it's a complement? Hell, I *love* being black!

"Well, you know what I mean."

What do you mean? Does being black mean conforming to the stereotypes? And who are you to define a person's blackness, anyway?

"Do you think O.J. is guilty?"

I saw the trial. I saw evidence the jury didn't see. Based on the evidence I saw, no, he is not guilty.

"Did the L.A. Prosecutor's Office botch the case?"

Yep.

In Los Angeles, the well-kept graves of Nicole Brown and Ron Goldman are warmed by the December sun.

In Tuzla, U.S. forces deploy to stop a war based on racism.

And in Olympia, an embattled police chief fights to keep his job amid charges of racism, sexual harassment and mismanagement under his administration. As we read the front-page stories in our *Olympian* we cannot help but wonder: Is this how the L.A.P.D. became what it is?"

JENNIFER HARBURY

WHY IS SHE SUING THE CIA?

ALSO: THE EFFECTS OF US-GUATEMALAN POLICY AND THE MEANING OF SOLIDARITY

- **NOON, Friday, January 19th Library Lobby, TESC**
- **7:30 P.M., Friday, Januarv 19th** First Methodist Church 1224 Legion Way

*** There will be no charge***

Sponsored by Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, and Liberation Cafe
For more information call Peter at 866-6000, X6431

Jennifer K. Harbury is a US citizen and licensed attorney. She received her BA in 1974 from Cornell University, and a law degree in 1978 from Harvard University. She met her husband, Dfrain Bamaca Velasquez (known by the guerilla name Everardo), in 1990 while researching her book in Guatemala. Her husband vanished during combat in 1992. The Guatemalan Milirary claimed that he had committed suicide to avoid capture, but in 1992, Santiago Cabrera Lopez, a URNG combatant who had also been secretly detained, reported that he had seen Everardo being severly tortured at a military base camp. In an attempt to acquire information about her husband's death, she staged a hunger strike on two separate occasions, and petitioned Congress under the Freedom of Information Act. Harbury has filed a suit against the CIA for failure to respond to request for information regarding her husband's death.

Doranne Crable and Kagami Butoh present Sanctuary, a dance performance, January 19 and 20 at 8pm in TESC Recital Hall. Tickets available at the door, $5 general, $3 student and senior. Reception to follow.

The dance form Butoh emerged in Japan's post-war period out of rebellion against traditions which revered beauty and treasured harmony. Hijikata Tatsumi, the founder of Butoh, wanted to uncover the ignored aspects of Japanese society such as deformity, homosexuality, and insanity. Probably the most influential factor in the development of this modern, abstract dance form was the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

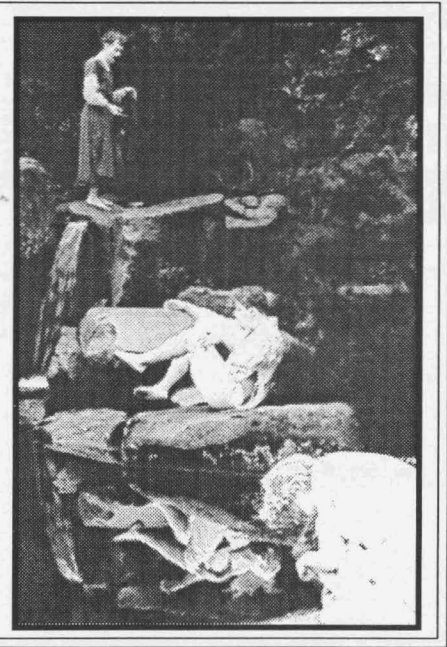

photo by Kelly Coyle

We are dedicated to the vision of community radio that it should:

"Arouse our dreams
satisfy our hunger
for beauty
take us on journeys
enable us
to participate
in events
present great drama
and music
and address itself
to the ideal
of excellence
not the idea of
acceptability."

– E.B. White

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